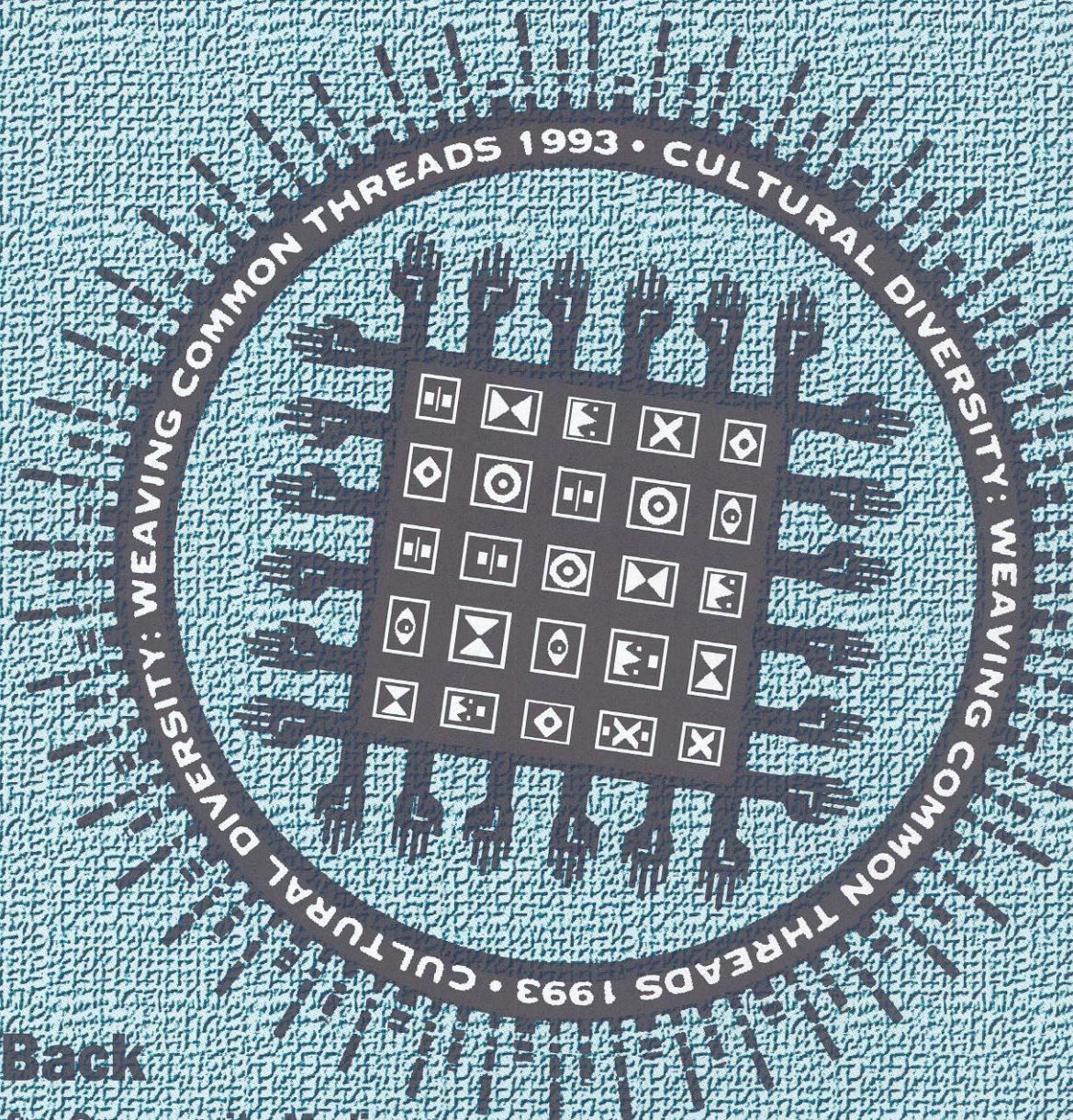


CTR

COMMUNITY TELEVISION REVIEW

A Publication of the
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Volume 16, No. 4 • \$6



Looking Back

1993 Alliance for Community Media

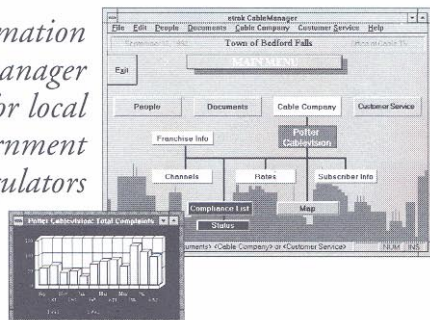
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JULY/AUGUST 1993
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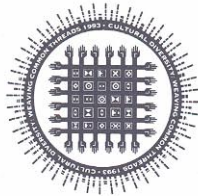
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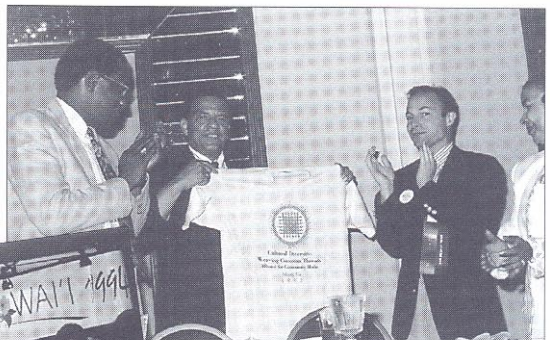
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addresses convention
in Atlanta —
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— while the 1994
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Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are organized by members sharing a common interest and desire to establish a network to communicate within and outside the Alliance.

Educational Access

Alice French
LISD-TV
1323 East 24th Street
Lubbock, TX 79404
806/766-1212 806/766-1312 fax

Training

Chuck Peterson
GRTV
50 Library Plaza NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616/459-4788 616/459-3970 fax

Government Access

Robert Hardy
City of Iowa City
410 E. Washington Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
319/356-5047

Seniors

Tom Taylor
c/o Senior Video Project
PO Box 29082
Portland, OR 97229
503/282-8634

Small Access Centers

Greg Epler Wood
PO Box 871
North Bennington, VT 05257
802/442-8868

Independent Producers

(Surveying interest)
Jan Zacharias
10004 Vanguard Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95827
916/363-9153

Accessing the Alliance

Jobline. For access jobs across America, call 202/393-2653.

Bulletin Board. To connect, call 217/359-9118, and set your computer's modem to 300, 1200 or 2400 baud, 8 bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

National Office. Call 202/393-2650, fax 202/393-2653, or write the Alliance at 666 11th St. NW, Suite 806, Washington, DC 20001-4542.

Address Changes. Please contact the national office at the address above for membership or CTR subscription address changes.

Community Television Review. Advertising and editorial, call 616/454-6663, fax 616/454-6698, or write CTR, 15 Ionia SW, Suite 201, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4113.

Alliance Brochures

► Community Media's *Computer Connection* brochure attempts to take the mystery out of accessing the Alliance Bulletin Board System with easy to understand instructions.

► The Alliance's *Publications Brochure*, updated this summer, lists numerous publications, books, materials, and videotapes available through the national office. Both are available free.

Recruitment Kit Now Available

All organizational members of the Alliance should have received the new recruitment kit, either at the convention or in the mail. If your organization hasn't, contact the national office.

Designed to recruit affiliate members to the Alliance, the kits feature a videotape promoting the Alliance and contrasting commercial and public access television; membership flyers; a sticker that says "protected by the Alliance for Community Media"; a bulletin board header to highlight news from the Alliance; and camera-ready Alliance logos for use in newsletter and other print materials.

Organizations also have an opportunity to earn credit towards their organizational membership fees.

Community Programming Catalog Available

Just a reminder, the 1992-93 edition of the *National Videotape Exchange: Community Programming Catalogue* is available from the Alliance's Far West Region.

The Videotape Exchange lists low-cost, non-commercial programs created by public, educational and government access organizations, as well as community volunteers, independent producers, non-profit groups, for-profit companies and local origin operations from all over the United States. It is arranged with appendices that provide cross-reference by title, target audience, program topic and state.

A number of the 1991 editions remain available also. Cost for either edition is \$20 for Alliance members, \$25 for non-members, or order both editions for \$35

CONNECTIONS

members, \$45 non-members. Cost includes mailing.

Contact Ron Cooper at Access Sacramento, 4623 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95819. Telephone 916/456-8600.

CTR Editorial Themes Chosen for '93-94

Editorial themes for 1993-94 were selected by the CTR Editorial Board at the national convention in Atlanta.

Upcoming themes include Access Gumbo - September/October '93; The Information Highway & Community Communications - November/December '93; Media Literacy & Training - January/February '94; Governance & Fund Development - March/April '94; Access, Advocacy & Activism - May/June '94; International Media - July/August '94; Access Centers in the 21st Century - September/October '94.

No Dogs or Philosophers Allowed on the Bird

No Dogs or Philosophers Allowed, a "live, hour-long Socratic conversation using technology to pursue wisdom," will be uplinked to satellite for four live feeds this fall and is available free to access centers.

Produced at Arlington Community Television in Arlington, Virginia, NDOPA has won eight Hometown Awards, including three in this year's festival, and is a nominee for a Cable ACE Award.

"We would like people to put the show out live on the four Sunday nights we're bouncing it off the bird," says philosopher and host of the show, Ken Knisely. "We will be taking calls from viewers, as well as faxes. And we are

working on a parallel conversation computer nets to provide footnotes, bibliographies, and a more indepth forum for discussion of the topics."

Topics will include ethics of environmental actions on September 12, the right to health care on October 10, philosophies of war and peace on November 7, and the concept of tolerance in a multi-cultural future on December 5. Programs will run from 8:30-9:30 p.m. All times Eastern.

The shows will be available on the Telstar Satellite 302, transponder 2V, located at 85 degrees west.

For more information, contact Knisely at the Philosophy Network, Box 10325, Arlington, VA 22210-1325. Telephone 703/536-7502, fax 703/908-9239. Computer BBS at 300, 1200 or 2400 Baud, dial 703/920-7564.

Up & Coming

September 10-11 Alliance for Community Media Southwest Regional Conference, *Access Skills Summit 1993*. Dallas, TX. In conjunction with Cable Access of Dallas. Contact ACTV at 512/478-8600, or Cable Access of Dallas at 214/631-5571.

September 14 Oral argument, United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia. *Alliance for Community Media, et al v. Federal Communications Commission* regarding Section 10 of the 1992 Cable Act.

October 14-15 Alliance for Community Media Central States Conference, Louisville, KY. Contact Sidney Ware at 502/782-2489 or Norm Compton at 419/784-3401.

October 15 1993 World Food

Day live teleconference, *Seeds of Conflict: Biodiversity and Food Security*. Available free to access centers on Galaxy 7 satellite, noon to 3 p.m. Eastern. Free reproducible study materials, English and/or Spanish. Contact Patricia Young, U.S. National Committee for World Food Day, 1001 22nd St. NW, Washington, DC 20437. Telephone 202/653-5760.

November 4-6 Alliance for Community Media National Board Meeting, Honolulu, HI. Contact the national office at 202/393-2650 or Richard Turner, Olelo, at 808/834-0007, ext. 1714.

December 1 Deadline for entries. Environmental Video Contest. Contact WGBH, 125 Western Ave., Boston, MA 02134 for details.

December 2-6 Union for Democratic Communications Conference, *Media, Culture and Popular Hegemony: A Pan American Dialogue*, Havana, Cuba. Contact Jackie Byars at 313/534-4185 or Bill Barlow at 703/519-7894.

January 27-30, 1994 Alliance for Community Media National Board Meeting, site to be announced. Contact the national office at 202/393-2650.

May 12-15, 1994 Alliance for Community Media National Board Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact the national office at 202/393-2650.

CTR encourages submission of upcoming events for this forum. Submissions should be of general interest to all Alliance members and include title, organization, dates, location and contact numbers. Please try to notify CTR at least three months prior to the event. Send submissions to CTR, 15 Ionia SW, Suite 201, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4113, or call 616/454-6663 voice, 616/454-6698 fax.

Quote to Note

"Plaintiffs (Turner, Time Warner) have come before this Court, not because their freedom of speech is seriously threatened, but because their profits are; to dress up their complaint in First Amendment garb demeans the principles for which the First Amendment stands and the protections it was designed to afford... this case is not about protecting free speech and the First Amendment. This case is about market domination and control."

U.S. District Court Judge Sporkin in his concurring opinion that must carry provisions of the 1993 Cable Act are in fact constitutional.

If you haven't joined the Alliance for Community Media, here's how to become a member.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

(Please check all that apply)

Yes, I want to join the Alliance for Community Media. I am a(n):

- ☐ Access Staff Member ☐ Access Board Member
☐ Community Producer ☐ Cable Regulatory Staff or Board Member
☐ Other _____

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- ☐ Over \$100,000 annual revenues \$ 275
☐ \$10,000 to \$100,000 annual revenues \$ 175
☐ Under \$10,000 annual revenues \$ 75

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INDIVIDUAL

- ☐ Affiliated (available only if your organization is a member: includes paid staff, volunteer producers, board members, or other unpaid individuals associated with a member organization)
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☐ At-Large (includes professional or volunteer individuals who are not associated with a member organization)
☐ Advocate (volunteer) \$30 ☐ Professional (salaried) \$75
☐ Patron \$120 ☐ Life \$1,000

All individual memberships expire one year from the last day of the month in which you join.

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 (Canada \$30, other non-U.S. \$35) CTR Subscriptions expire one year from the last day of the month in which you sign up.

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Membership name (individual or organization)

Contact person (organizational members only)

Mailing Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Name of organization of affiliation (affiliated members only)

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Educational institution ☐ Library
☐ Government ☐ Cable system ☐ Other for profit org.

TYPE OF FACILITY (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Public access ☐ Education access ☐ Government access
☐ Local origination ☐ Leased access ☐ Other

DEMOGRAPHICS (individual members only)

This optional information will help us to better serve current and potential members.

- ☐ Black ☐ White ☐ Hispanic ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
☐ Native American ☐ Other ☐ Female ☐ Male

Mail check or money order payable to the Alliance for Community Media, 666 11th Street, N.W., Suite 806, Washington, D.C. 20001-4542.



To the Editor:

"We need to create a new paradigm and new processes, so that access can transcend the passivity that television engenders and the apathy about issues that American society promulgates."

The above, taken from page 8, Vol. 16, #2 of the Community Television Review, represents the most outrageous collection of semantic garbage I have ever had the misfortune to allow into my collective consciousness.

Ms. Portwood has, obviously, fallen in love with her thesaurus, and having done so, wishes to inflict on the intelligent reader three columns of self serving claptrap and drivel. It would appear that Portwood, having become enamored with the verbal rambling of Blau, desires to practice a little "one upmanship" at the expense of my intellect and well as that of your other readers.

Like a large majority of self-appointed media academics, Ms. Portwood has not even the bare minimum grasp of the true dynamics of Television. If she had, she would jettison her myopic view of the medium, and cease to tilt with windmills she can not change. Forty plus years

of ingrained national viewing patterns and customs have established a video culture that can never be overturned by overzealous, (albeit well meaning), politically correct, self-righteous program manipulators. (Such as Portwood and Blau.)

It may make for great thesis material, but as for the real world of original, producer created, community access programming, Portwood can take the fulfillment of her content-oriented, narrow-minded, public discourse "dream" and relegate it to the "idiosyncratic nightmare rubbish bin", wherein it belongs. . . in short dear Ms. P, "Get a life!"

Ian N. Wheeler, Executive Director
 Fairfax Cable Access Corporation
 Fairfax, Virginia

Pamela Portwood replies: I included quotations from Andrew Blau and others in my article to indicate that the ideas I was expressing are not novel nor mine alone. The concept that public access and commercial television are not synonymous is gaining momentum throughout the access community. CTR seemed an ideal place for a dialogue about such issues. Unfortunately, Mr. Wheeler's ad hominem arguments resort to attacking the speaker rather than debating the issues. As for Mr. Wheeler's injunction that I should "Get a life," I am quite content with the one I have, thank you.

Let Them Know Your Views

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES that deal with telecommunications issues are:

The House of Representatives: Energy and Commerce Committee

John Dingell, Chair

Room 2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515-6115
 (202) 225-2927.

The House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance

Edward J. Markey, Chairman

316 Ford House Office Bldg., Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-2424.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

Ernest J. Hollings, Chair

Room SDOB-508 Washington DC 20515 (202) 224-5115.

The Senate Communications Subcommittee

Daniel Inouye, Chair

SHOB-227, Washington DC 20515 (202) 224-9340.

To Members of the Alliance

By Anthony Riddle

Let me begin by saying thank you very much for the faith you have invested in me by allowing me to Chair your Board of Directors. I promise to do all that I am able to justify that faith. I care deeply about access and the work of the Alliance, as do all of you. If I can only help to coordinate your tremendous energies and provide means for you to accomplish your goals, there is no way we can be anything but successful.

As a Director of Access over the years, my attention has gradually shifted from the need to create program content to the need to provide more effective systems for distribution of the content of others. I expect to maintain that profile as Chair.

I believe that, in order to effectively serve our members, we have to reorganize our resources, that we have to recognize our resources and use them.

Specifically, we need to focus energy in the following areas:

1) Organization of data for the movement of the grassroots. Grassroots includes not only those members whose involvement is self-supported or aimed at grassroots issues, but also includes, to my mind, the viewing audience of PEG Access. We need to bring understanding of our message to the broad community in which we live. That is where the political movement we need awaits.

2) Speed communications ability through fax, modem and satellite resources. This will require some gathering of resource information from members and organizing of systems. It will entail efforts to educate ourselves and access communities.

3) Identify new and former members throughout the regions. We need to have a coordinated effort to identify former members who have moved away from the Alliance and to include them in some portion of our information efforts. We also need coordinated effort to learn about on-going attempts to organize access in areas outside our membership. Again, there needs to be improved means of bringing these names and organizations into our information loop. It will take your help.

4) With the establishment of faster, more wide-spread coordination of information distribution, we should then be able to organize a method of concentrating our responses to crises or criticism to the places upon which they will have the most impact. We will need to know who you know in the major media and political arenas.



In general, little of this is new. Much of the work in this area is anticipated by the discussions already taking place in Information Services and other committees. It will take some coordination between various committees, in the gathering and organizing, but in many ways, we are already headed in the right direction.

Technical Ways and Means Task Force. This year, we will establish a Technical Ways and Means Task Force to work in combination with Informa-

tion Services, Public Policy and Grassroots on a series of special projects. All of the efforts are directed toward establishing faster means of communicating between our members and with the public. The means to be organized are:

- 1) Expansion and formalization of our fax-tree capabilities;
- 2) To establish, probably through satellite uplink, a faster means of projecting image-based information to our membership and their audiences;
- 3) To develop the Alliance BBS system as a practical tool for the sharing of useful data and writings for the membership;
- 4) To do whatever it takes to move the Alliance further out of the realm of theory and into use of the new technologies for carrying on the business of the organization.

If you are interested in participating in such a task-force, please write to me or to your regional chair as soon as possible.

In closing, I really look forward to this year with a sense of anticipation. We face wonderful opportunities if we can but reach out and grasp them. I hope to be able to involve every person in this organization- and many people outside of it- as we head into the frontier.

I hope, with all sincerity, that you and I will work together to embrace to wonderful changes that are upon us, that we will accept the opportunity to do our work in ways we have only contemplated before now.

Yours in Alliance,

Anthony T. Riddle

Alliance for Community Media

PS: My e-mail address is <mtn@MR.NET>. If you have access to e-mail send me your e-mail address. If you don't have access get it through someone near you today! There's no time to waste.

Looking Ahead to 1993-94 Projects and Beyond

By Alan Bushong

Each year, the Alliance's National Convention provides the best access to specialized community media information and training and the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with many of the best community media people in the nation. The Atlanta Convention combined training and information sessions, open roundtable exchanges, committee development work and action from the delegates and the board. Public Policy Committee members Andrew Blau, Fiona Boneham, Jim Horwood, Carl Kucharski and Alan Bushong were joined by Attorney Joe Van Eaton, NATOA Board Member Mike Reardon and a host of community media leaders in providing general information sessions. Additional experts provided specialized sessions on controversial programming and creative mobilization for access centers under attack. Thanks to the many talented presenters and session participants!

Public Policy is your policy. Many convention participants expressed their admiration for Convention Keynote Speaker Andrew Young and the combination of passion, deep convictions and human rights actions that characterize his life. Ambassador Young repeatedly tied the power and value of community media to the many causes he has supported. The link to public policy is clear: we need to create an environment conducive to community use of media for building communities in our rapidly changing telecommunications age. Our greatest resource – our people – can solve any problem when educated and empowered to speak for themselves and act in their own best interest. The Alliance's Public Policy cannot be abstract: it is a method to enable each of us to do our own work.

Media Arts/Community Media Consortium Proposal. Immediately prior to the convention, the Alliance Board approved the concept of participation in a joint public policy project with the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF) and the National Alliance of Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC). PBS minority consortia and independent producers are also participating in the proposed project, which is designed to coordinate the public policy efforts of these leading media arts and community media national organizations and groups. It's great



Convention attendees responded with more than \$1700 for public policy initiatives in accepting the Dachman Challenge at the opening luncheon. Some \$3400 was raised overall.

to be working with these groups whose work is so closely aligned with ours!

Alliance Provides Public Policy Funds for Time Warner Litigation.

Thanks to your contributions, the Alliance committed \$5,000 of public policy funds for legal expenses in defense of the constitutionality of public, educational and governmental (PEG) access in the Time Warner suit. Time Warner has claimed that cable TV franchises, PEG access and the Cable Acts of 1984 and 1992 are unconstitutional. A decision at the District Court level is expected soon.

The Dachman Challenge. Long-time Alliance member Alan Dachman resumed the Dachman Challenge, initiated in 1992 at the Minneapolis Convention. Alan challenged members to match his \$500 pledge of public policy funds at the opening luncheon; members of the National Board provided over \$1200 of additional challenge funds. Convention participants responded with over \$1700 of contributions, bringing the luncheon fundraiser to over \$3400. Alan will be joining Treasurer Carl Kucharski and the Finance Committee to coordinate fundraising activities in the next year. Good work, Alan!

1993-94 Projects and Working Groups. Convention delegates joined the Public Policy Committee to outline the following projects and volunteer working groups for 1993-94:

1. Elected officials on community media. Mountain States Public Policy Chair and Santa Fe public access programmer Nathalie Golay and Pete Shams-Avari of nearby Quote.

Unquote, Albuquerque will be assembling an information packet on how to involve elected officials at all levels on community media. Portland-area independent producer Lisa Stiller will assist with case study work of effective community TV channel use.

2. Media spots/programs on emerging technologies. Lyndell Douglas Core, Training Manager at Fairfax Cable Access Corporation, will collect existing media on emerging telecommunications technologies, including switched "cable" TV on telephone lines and the FCC's proposed policies on video dial tone.

3. Federal Appointee Lisa Berg, advance staff for Vice-President Al Gore, will work with the committee regarding appointments to the FCC, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and other federal appointees.

4. Rapid information to organizational/affiliate members. Alliance Board member Fiona Boneham will assist me in condensing information for rapid release to organizational members, starting with those who can provide the information to affiliate members.

My thanks to the hard-working committee members for volunteering their time and talent.

Committee motions. The committee brought forward two motions which were unanimously approved by the delegates. The motions reflect 1992-93 work and look forward to public policy initiatives by:

1. Providing additional thanks from the delegates to Shea & Gardner for their tremendous contribution of legal work on the FCC rule making processes and resulting litigation.

2. Stating the Alliance's intent to inform and educate members to encourage use of community media resources by elected officials in place of forming a political action committee.

How to join. If you are interested in joining the Public Policy Committee, please write or fax your interest. I will send you the name of your regional Public Policy Chair.

Alan Bushong chairs the Alliance's Public Policy Committee. He is executive director of Capital Community Television, 585 Liberty St., Salem, OR 97308-2342. Telephone

Cultural Diversity: Weaving Common Threads

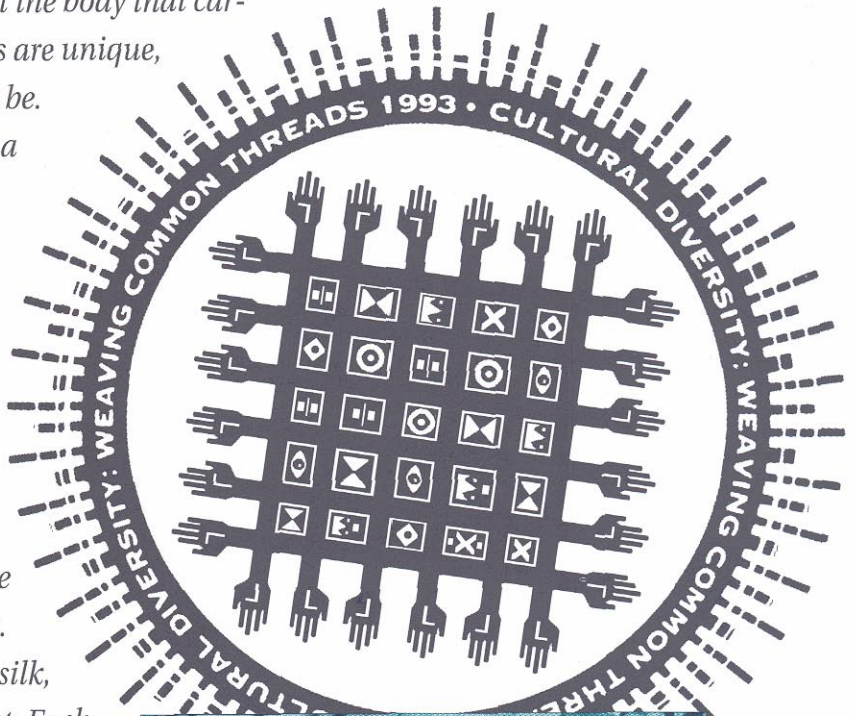
1993 Alliance for Community Media National Convention and Trade Show

Atlanta, Georgia • July 21-25, 1993

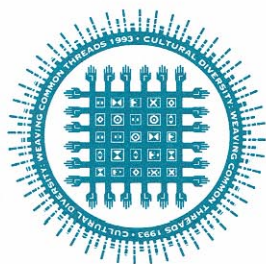
I remember an old Cheyenne Medicine Woman (my grandmother to be exact) telling me as a young child that all the different races of people in the world made up the colors of the rainbow. This was where the word human came from. Hue, the multi-colors in the rainbow, and man, not in the gender sense, but the body that carries the hues inside. All the colors are unique, being able to stand alone if need be. Together, the hues blend to form a powerful visual masterpiece.

The theme of the national convention, *Weaving Common Threads*, stirs the same mental picture in my head. Each member of the Alliance is a thread in the quilt, bringing to the weave a common bond. The convention serves as our loom, as all the threads entwine to make a cloth. The cloth a rich array of cotton, silk, wool, and linen, gives us comfort. Each of us carries a piece of the cloth with us, as we learn new ideas, share common problems, and network within the loom. The cloth, like the rainbow, becomes a visual masterpiece, not only through the media, but through "hue-man" existence.

Enough with analogies. Let's carry the energy from the convention with us in our day to day lives. It doesn't matter if you are the executive director of an access center, or the grassroots producer. We are all threads in the quilt and hues in the rainbow.



– Sabrina Bernadette Zackery, Editor-in-Chief



Convention Video Tapes

Video tapes are still available for most pre-convention and convention sessions, including the awards luncheon, keynote address, and Hometown Festival, from the 1993 Alliance for Community Media National Convention this summer in Atlanta.

Tapes are dubbed on to standard 2-hour VHS tapes and available at a cost of \$23 each for 1-5 tapes, \$21 each for 6-8 tapes, or \$19 each for 9 or more tapes. Non-members add \$5 per tape. Two-tape sessions are \$5 more, three-tape sessions \$10 more. All proceeds go to the Alliance.

A list of session tapes and order form was included in the convention program, or is available from People TV, Cable 12, 190 14th Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. Please allow 2 - 5 weeks for handling and delivery. To verify the availability of a taped session, call 404/873-6712.

Convention T-Shirts

1993 Alliance for Community Media Convention T-Shirts, featuring the convention logo above, are still available in large sizes.

Cost is \$12 each, including postage, and can be ordered from People TV, Cable 12, 190 14th Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The "Community" in Access

By T. Andrew Lewis

Our gathering in Atlanta proved a point. We are different. We are similar. Just like the needs and forces within communities.

I was pleased to meet so many that were new or recent participants in community communications. They blended well with those who had not missed a convention since 1978 in Lansing. Some came from across the Atlantic – some from across the Pacific. Others from just up the interstate.

The workshops were extremely well received, though our diversity provided some who were overwhelmed by the limited range of equipment. Similarly, while some were thoroughly mesmerized by the sketch artist and palm reader at Friday's party, others found their experience dominated by a transportation glitch. The Hometown ceremony and the programming that it recognized, though, seem to receive consistently high marks.

The brief, light but dynamic narrative of Toni Cade Bambara cut to the core of the discourse regarding the practical value of diverse forces. The Honorable Andrew Young, in the inimitable, easy style of a veteran, dropped us into the history of a movement about being heard. And then he plucked us up and placed us in a position to foresee the future role of access as a communications medium for those still yet demanding to be heard.

The threads of the AIDS quilt, the human stories that they represent and the human emotion that they elicited need no further commentary.

Next year's event also became a prime topic of conversation. Hawaii in 1994? Are they crazy? Perhaps just insensitive? None of the above! We began working before arriving in Atlanta to ensure that the Hawaii experience will be one of

our most affordable conventions ever. The feeling coming out of Atlanta – lots of excitement tempered by concern – is understandable. The enthusiasm has continued as calls to the office regarding next year's convention continue at a record pace. Hawaii has so much to offer in terms of diversity, internationalism and outstanding local support. Stay tuned.

For now, however, I would like to continue to savor the Atlanta experience. To outgoing Board Chair Andrew Blau and to those hardworking board members, we say thanks. Our National Convention Committee Chair Dave Vogel and his committee were exceptional. The Local Planning Committee, led by W. Chris Leonard, was outstanding in its effort and achievement. My thanks to Kelly Matthews and to our contractors, The Laurel Group, Eventions and The Buske Group. Without all of you, it couldn't have happened.

I am most moved by the overall dedication that emerged from our eclectic group. Somehow, I am reassured that despite any opposition and difficulty, the people's struggle for access to electronic media and the resulting community communications will prevail.

Please accept our thanks Atlanta for a job well done and for an event to remember. We laughed. We complained. We talked. We agreed. We disagreed. We were diverse of background, thought and opinion. We came together. It was, indeed, community. Enjoy this retrospective, community portrait.

T. Andrew Lewis is executive director of the Alliance for Community Media. Contact him at the Alliance, 666 11th St. NW, Suite 806, Washington, DC 20001-4542. Telephone 202/393-2650.

Alliance Awarded MacArthur Grant

Among the good news at the Alliance's 1993 convention was the announcement of the receipt of a \$20,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The grant will be used to publish a new edition of the Alliance's popular *Community Programming Resource Directory*, a reference guide designed to address the needs of current and potential community media users, community access television centers, independent video makers, nonprofit organizations, telecommunications regulators and policy makers.

One of the most significant aspects of the project will be the creation of a computer database to enable updating on an ongoing basis. A number of new data fields will be added. The project is anticipated for completion in late spring '94.

First published in 1987, more than 5,000 CPRDs have been distributed since then and it remains one of the Alliance's most popular publications.

For more information, contact the national office.



Jewell Ryan-White receives award named in her honor.

DIAN BONE



The Quote. . .UnQuote staff celebrates their awards. From Left, Sandra Marroquin, Gloria Walker, Fernando Moreno, Lynn Carrillo-Cruz, Peter Shams-Avari, and Yvonne Cortez.



Pete Belcastro accepts for Ashland Cable Access.



Robert H. Devine receives the Stoney Award.



Joe Van Eaton receives the Stoney Award.



Brian Girtman accepts for the Northwest Region.

1993 Awards

Alliance for Community Media

presented at the 1993 National Convention
July 22, 1993 • Atlanta, Georgia

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AWARDS

Institutional Access

Ashland Cable Access

Ashland, Oregon

Local Origination

Vision Cable of Pinellas

Pinellas, Florida

Public Access

Quote. . .Unquote, Inc.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

1993 BEST CHAPTER AWARD

Sacramento/Sierra Chapter

Far West Region

1993 BEST REGION AWARD

Northwest Region

BUSKE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Lynn Carrillo-Cruz

Albuquerque, New Mexico

GEORGE STONEY HUMANISTIC COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Joe Van Eaton

Partner, Miller & Holbrooke

Washington, DC

Robert H. Devine

Associate Dean of Faculty, Antioch College

Yellow Springs, Ohio

JEWELL RYAN-WHITE AWARD (Installation)

Cultural Diversity

Jewell Ryan-White

Atlanta, Georgia



Billie S. Noakes accepts for Vision Cable of Pinellas.



Lynn Carrillo-Cruz receives the Buske Leadership award.



Ron Cooper accepts for the Sacramento/Sierra Chapter.



Susanne Lund, Denmark, and Ted Weisberg, Sweden.



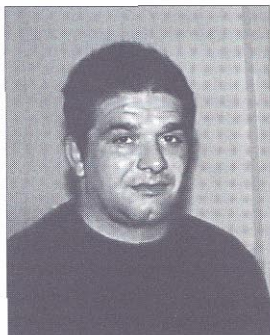
A video by Visser



Nico van Eijk, Netherlands.



Margarete Jarhmann and Alf Altendorf, Austria



Salvatore Vanesco, Germany



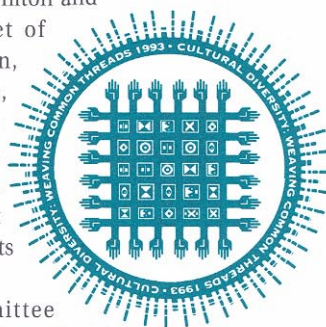
Karel Dudesek, Germany

International Reception

*Austria, Denmark, Germany,
Netherlands, Sweden and USA
come together in Atlanta*

By Gloria Walker

Two years ago the International Reception was a handful of people gathered in a bar. This year over 250 people attended the event Wednesday evening, topping off a busy day of pre-convention sessions at the Alliance's 1993 National Convention. Held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Atlanta Hilton and Towers, a grand buffet of cheese, crackers, melon, fruit, and other delights, provided a centerpiece for mingling as guests enjoyed the exceptional opportunity to meet community media activists from other countries.



International Committee Chair Karen Helmersen introduced visitors from Germany, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. She also announced that Margarete Jarhmann and Alf Altendorf, from Austria, would be attending the Convention. Austria does not have any public access to media at this time, so Alf and Margarete were particularly interested in making contacts and in seeing how access in this country works.

Nico van Eijk works in conjunction with OLON, an organization which represents community media concerns in the Netherlands. He specializes in policy and international media law and often acts as a liaison between Europe and the Alliance for Community Media.

Karel Dudesek and Salvatore Vanesco of VAN GOGH TV in Hamburg, Germany, describe their work as a collaboration of artists, scientists, and technicians, where the artistic interfaces with technology in creating interactive use of video, telephones and computers. Karel explained that VAN GOGH TV is not a business, but an international artists' group. Salvatore, who says he is "an Italian living in Germany," said they have been involved in 23 interactive projects over the last five years.

Ted Weisberg, of Sweden, is Coordinator of the 1994 Video Olympics, which will take place in Scandinavia April 25-29. He explained that the participants will travel by boat, starting in Copenhagen, Denmark, going to Gothenburg, Sweden, then to Oslo, Norway and finally returning to Copenhagen. This year's theme is "The Global Family" and Ted stated that they are "looking forward to a strong participation from the United States."

Susanne Lund of Denmark is helping organize the Video Olympics and is encouraging participation of youth.

Susanne works with youth through the MEDIEKURSER FOR UNGE (Media Center for Young People) in Copenhagen. Higher education in Denmark is free, but this means that competition is intense and not everyone who wants to go to college is accepted. The MEDIKURSER FOR UNGE offers training in media, including radio, television, video and graphic arts. This program allows youth to earn points that will improve their eligibility for attending a university, as well as giving them valuable media skills.

A final treat was the screening of a twenty-minute video produced by Randy Visser about the first Video Olympics held in France in 1992. It features interviews with delegates and samples of work from Australia, Ireland, and South Africa.

The International Reception works nicely to highlight the presence of international guests and to encourage people to interact and compare notes. Each country has its own unique situation regarding local access to media and yet we share many similar challenges. Talking with people from various countries can alert us to special projects and may even inspire creative solutions to common problems. Even more, it's a great way to build bridges that can lead to plans for exchanging tapes, information and people.

The success of the reception reflects the growth of the International Committee and the dedication of International Chair Karen Helmerson. Karen has done an outstanding job in organizing and outreach, making the Alliance the organization that people from other countries want to contact concerning community media. We can look forward to continued growth with new Chair, Nantz Rickard and certainly to the next International Reception in Hawaii!

The Alliance for Community Media will be selecting ten delegates to attend the 1994 Video Olympics in Scandinavia.

If you are interested in submitting a tape, contact your Regional International Chair. (See sidebar at right). Those interested in attending can contact Ted Weisberg directly.

Ted Weisberg
SAMBANDET
Box 2068
Stockholm 11622
SWEDEN

Susanne Lund
MCK
Lerso parkalle 2
2100 Kobenhavn 0
DENMARK

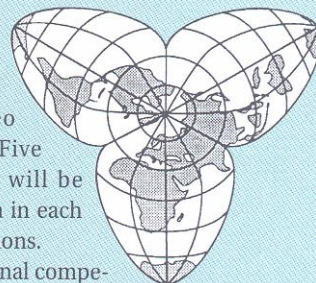
Salvatore Vanesco and
Karel Dudesek
European Media Art Lab
Koppel 66.D-20099 Hamburg
GERMANY

Nico van Eijk
OLON
Staringsstraat 7A
Amsterdam
THE NETHERLANDS 1054VM

Video Olympics

Call to Producers for Programs

Producers will have the opportunity to have their programs compete to be chosen as the representative programs to the international Video Olympics from the United States. Five programs, one in each category, will be selected by selecting the top program in each category from each of the Alliance regions.



The Video Olympics is an international competition/showcase organized in the spirit of the Olympic games. In April 1994 thirty nations are expected to participate in the five-day event to be held in Scandinavia. The theme will focus on young people in the media, to parallel with the United Nations Year of the Global Family. The final jury, workshops and awards ceremonies will be held on a cruise which starts in Copenhagen, continues on to stops in Gothenburg and Oslo and returns to Copenhagen. At each stop, tape viewings will be opened to the public as well.

The categories for this Olympics are:

Social Impact (maximum length 20 minutes) – A video which has had a social impact.

Local Tradition (maximum length 10 minutes) – A video about local tradition.

Young People (maximum length 10 minutes) – Produced by young people. If adults were part of the production, documentation of their level of participation must accompany the video.

Local Channel (maximum length 10 minutes) – Presentation of a community television station.

Open Category (maximum length 10 minutes) – For independent producers and professionals.

The tapes may be full programs or excerpted from a longer program to fit the required length. Tapes submitted which go past the allotted TRT will be disqualified at the regional level. No deadline has been set yet. As we receive more information, it will be available through your region's International Committee Chair.

The United States will be represented by 10 delegates to be selected by the national board of the Alliance that will be chosen in accordance with criteria established by the Video Olympics organizers. Individuals interested in attending should contact their regional International Committee Chair or the organizers directly: Ted Weisberg, c/o SAMBANDET, Box 2068, 103 12 Stockholm, Sweden. Fax 46/8-108-830.

– **Nantz Rickard, International Committee Chair**

Nantz is Deputy Director of DCTV and assumes the International mantle in CTR, replacing Karen Helmerson who stepped down at the '93 convention after five years. In perhaps the convention's most spirited election, delegates elected Nantz to replace her. She may be reached at DCTV, 1400 20th Street, NW, Suite G-2, Washington, DC 20036. Telephone 202/659-6260. Fax 212/296-8334.

Access in Paradise

The 1994 Alliance National Convention and Trade Show

If you're like others, upon hearing "Hawai'i," you think of sun, surf and perpetual paradise. However, there is more to Hawai'i than just suntans and skin-diving. By attending the 1994 Alliance for Community Media National Convention and Trade Show in Honolulu, you will become aware of a unique cultural phenomenon that is primed for 21st century opportunities. 'Ōlelo: The Corporation for Community Television, your host access center in Honolulu, is taking a lead role in planning the convention. You can be sure we'll show you more than just hula dancers and Waikiki.

Local planning for the convention is already underway. Richard Turner, 'Ōlelo executive director and Alliance board member, also heads the effort as National Planning Chair. Taking the helm as Local Planning Chair is Junior Ekau, a native Hawaiian whose rare mix of grass roots heart and soul combined with organizational savvy and commitment has instilled inspiration and drive among 'Ōlelo staff and volunteers.

As a major player in educational access in the state, the University of Hawai'i is being considered as a possible location for the convention. According to Hae Okimoto of the UH Office of Information Technology, dormitories and student apartments may be available to house convention attendees, and classrooms may be provided for breakout sessions and workshops.

Getting to the Islands and the cost incurred by a trip to Hawai'i have been expressed as major concerns. While at the 1993 Alliance Convention in Atlanta, the Hawai'i contingent brainstormed with others on ways access professionals could justify "business" trip to paradise. A few verged on the ingenious while others made plain

good sense.

- For those in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, consider the Alliance convention as a two-year program. Any overages in 1994 could be offset by the amount saved on the 1995 convention in Boston.

- For those in the Midwest or western states, try to get to Los Angeles or San Francisco (take a commuter flight or bus or drive) and take advantage of lower air fares from the West Coast.

- Suggest splitting travel expenses with your access center. Use the convention as an incentive to take a much-needed vacation and cure access burn-out.

Specific accommodation costs will be announced in the Alliance convention registration packet. For those interested in extending their stay in the Islands, don't overlook the potential of camping or staying in a B&B or hostel. Ground transportation in Honolulu is efficient with the public bus system. Renting cars, mopeds or bikes are other alternatives.

The true reason for attending the 1994 convention, however, lies in the message Hawai'i presents to the rest of the nation. Convention attendees will witness the complementary convergence of tradition and technology, and how both emerge independently enriched. Like elsewhere, access in Hawai'i is supported by a strong grass roots community. Our multicultural environment belies the popular "melting pot" implications of a blurring of distinct traits. Instead, ethnic cultures stand out, and through access television, many groups have found a ready forum to present their POV to the larger community. The story of PEG access in Hawai'i, cable access has become a way of life. We invited you to experience that life.

—Joy Kitamori, 'Ōlelo



New Alliance Logo Unveiled at National

One of the Alliance's goals following the adoption of its new name last year was the development of a new logo to go with the name. The task fell to Mitch Tlustos at Tualatin Valley Community Access in Beaverton, Oregon, where he is Community Programming Coordinator and resident

graphic artist. He also serves as Public Policy Chair for the Alliance's Northwest Region.

Says Mitch about the reasoning behind his design:

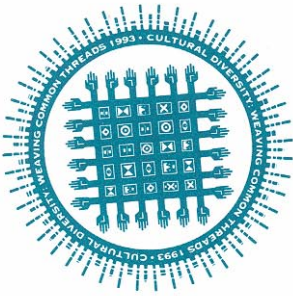
"The logo design is based on the concept that people in community (as shown by the figure joining hands) are the ultimate symbol of our organization and together give shape to our alternative style of hands-on, grass-roots communication represented by the drum.

"Some of the design's visual interest derives from the viewer's shifting perception between the image of people

joined together and the image of a drum with cover skin and lancing. That visual dynamic further reinforces the indivisibility of people and community communication.

"The drum itself is a powerful symbol for an alternative community media system. It is cross-cultural, inclusive of many voices, and is equated with unhindered personal expression. It is also a metaphor for under- and misrepresented groups that our organization aspires to empower.

"No logo, in and of itself, is sufficient to embody the complete goals and spirit of an organization. Logos become identified with the groups they represent through the public's repeated exposure to the image and the organization's functions and activities. This logo, in emphasizing community communication, has the potential for quickly and effectively reminding people of the core values of our organization."



Portraits of the Convention

July 1993 • Atlanta, Georgia

GLORIA WALKER

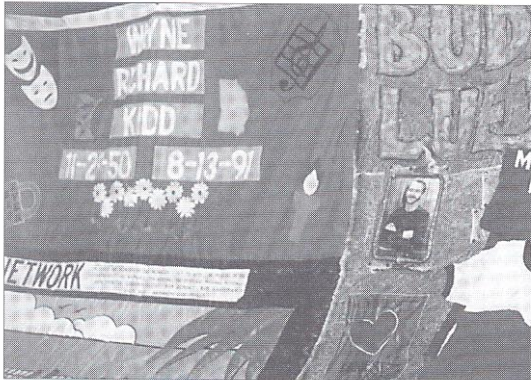


Storyteller Toni Cade Bambara weaves a tale for the Alliance audience at the keynote awards luncheon.



The national board of the Alliance marks another year with thanks around for their hard work during the past year.

SABRINA ZACKERY



A piece of the AIDS quilt comes to convention, inspiring attendees to create their own weaving.



Haunani Apoliona of 'Ōlelo sings a sweet aloha in inviting the Alliance to Hawai'i for the 1994 Convention.



Greg Smith (right) takes the mystery out of the Bulletin Board Service.

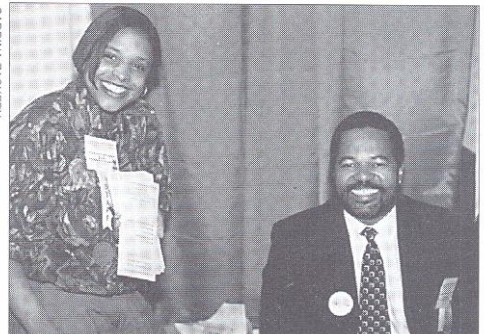


Iaoonis Mookas holds down the Deep Dish booth at the Trade Show.



Greg Vawter gives us a 1,001 good reasons to buy raffle tickets.

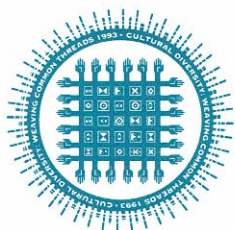
SABRINA ZACKERY



Alliance Operations Assistant Kelly Matthews and Board Member LaMonte Ward.

SABRINA ZACKERY

Andrew Young Talks of Tolerance, Respect and Understanding



...we see the public access movement as a continuation of the dream and the vision of the Civil Rights movement, and the human rights movement generally. What we were marching for was to get a hearing. Martin used to always quote Victor Hugo who said that, "Violence is the language of the unheard." When people explode in violence it is because they have been ignored, because they have been isolated, because they're frustrated that they have no access. We had to march for access, and marching just three or four blocks. . . normally got us thrown in jail. People brought out police dogs, people put fire hoses on us. We had to basically risk our lives just to say, "Wait a minute, we can't vote! We're not trying to burn anything down. We don't want to destroy the country. We just want the same citizenship rights and respect for our human dignity that is accorded to every other American citizen, and that ought to be accorded to every other person on the face of this small planet of ours. It was there that the dream of human rights was born that has swept across this planet. But that dream must be kept alive by some ongoing mechanism of communication."

— Andrew Young

The honorable Andrew J. Young, former United Nations Ambassador and mayor of Atlanta, was keynote speaker at the closing luncheon Saturday at the convention. Young has spent more than 35 years in public service. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s, he was a top aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elected to three terms in the U.S. Congress, Young resigned his seat in 1977 upon appointment by President Jimmy Carter as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. In 1981, Young served two terms as mayor of Atlanta, during which, Atlanta's public access center, People TV, was founded. Following his terms as mayor, he joined Law Companies Group, Inc., one of the most respected engineering and environmental consulting companies in the world.

His address to Alliance members is excerpted here. Special thanks to Bob Devine for facilitating the transcription.

He was introduced by long-time friend and Vice President of Turner Broadcasting, Xernona Clayton.

I present the man who's much honored, much awarded, greatly loved, and immensely respected, the minister, the Mayor, the ambassador, the husband, the father, the grandfather, the man who brought the Olympics to Atlanta, a friend to man and a gentleman, the honorable Andrew J. Young.

Thank you very much. And welcome to Atlanta. We're really and truly proud to have you here, and I'm really glad that you asked Mrs. Clayton to introduce me, because she's never said that many nice things to me or about me, ever before, and we've known each other since we were little bitty children. We were little children when we worked with Martin Luther King. But I think one of the happiest occasions I remember sharing with Martin Luther King was a birthday party that "Big", as we called her — and she's got a twin sister the same size who they call "Little" — that "Big" Clayton planned for Martin and the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the basement of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. If you remember the film "King: From Montgomery to Memphis," you probably saw a part of that. It was one of the rare occasions that — people always had pictures of Martin Luther King standing at a podium with his lofty dreams — but this was a film



sequence that had him doing what we saw him do more than we saw him preach, and that was crackin' on people, and just telling jokes and being the life of the party, and being the happy-go-lucky thirty-five year old that he was during the height of his prominence. In fact, I think he was thirty-four when he won the Nobel Prize.

We're glad to have you here, and we're glad to relate you to this movement. For we see the public access movement as a

continuation of the dream and the vision of the Civil Rights movement, and the human rights movement generally. What we were marching for was to get a hearing. Martin used to always quote Victor Hugo who said that, "Violence is the language of the unheard." When people explode in violence it is because they have been ignored, because they have been isolated, because they're frustrated that they have no access. We had to march for access, and marching just three or four blocks — trying to get to City Hall to try to get the attention of whoever was the Mayor — normally got us thrown in jail. People brought out police dogs, people put fire hoses on us. We had to basically risk our lives just to say, "Wait a minute, we can't vote! We're not trying to burn anything down. We don't want to destroy the country. We just want the same citizenship rights and respect for our human dignity that is accorded to every other American citizen, and that ought to be accorded to every other person on the face of this small planet of ours. It was there that the dream of human rights was born that has swept across this planet. But that dream must be kept alive by some ongoing mechanism of communication. It really is too strenuous and there are too many complex issues for you to get together a group of people and march every time you have a problem. It takes too long to get the attention.

I like to tell people, particularly young black people who always say to me, "Why can't we get together like you all were in the sixties?" There were four hundred black Baptist churches in Birmingham Alabama in 1963, and they voted overwhelmingly to keep Martin Luther King and SCLC out. They didn't even want us in town. We had a small cadre of about twenty five churches that basically were the civil rights movement. When Martin Luther King went to jail, we had a big campaign on

for two months to try to get people to march with Martin Luther King. Fifty five people showed up. It ended up on page thirty-four of the *Birmingham Post Herald*. I'm saying that we were marching for access. We were marching for the right to communicate and because of some of that marching, and because of the awareness of people-power that emerged later in the sixties, when we ended up with cable television and the proliferation of channels, there was a movement of people who said, "Wait a minute. This may be an answer. This may be an answer where people don't have to go to the big businesses of the world to buy time, to get a minute, where they don't have to be controlled by any particular power oligarchy, but where people can have the freedom and the opportunity to say whatever in the hell they please whenever in the hell they want to!"



The challenge of life as we know it is not just tolerance of diversity, but really and truly appreciating the values and virtues of diversity. That's a strain. It's a strain because it challenges us. It's a strain because it forces us to rethink whatever it is that we happen to think. I'm saying we live in a world of difference. We live in a world when it's absolutely necessary to respect the differences to survive, but before we can respect the differences, we have to understand them. We don't have much opportunity to really relate to people who are different.

One night I was challenged by one of our local news broadcasters who told me that he had invited a couple of preachers, a couple of City Council members, a couple of the business community, and we were all supposed to wear our old clothes, and we were going to meet one night about six o'clock and we were going to go out and be homeless for just twenty four hours. And he wanted to have us followed at a distance by a camera crew just to see what the reactions were, and to do a report on homelessness in Atlanta. Well, when I got there I was the only one who showed up. The interesting thing was that I didn't want to back out, and I really jumped at the opportunity. I do what most of us do. I walk to people and I turn my head and move on before somebody hits me, and I manage to keep a bunch of quarters and even dollars in my pocket. . . because I can't stand to see people standing on the street. The first homeless person I met years ago in New York was a fellow who was a Harvard University dropout. He'd been at Harvard with John Kennedy, and had gone to Choate, but he'd flunked out of Harvard and he could not go home, and he had been wandering around the streets of New York as a drunk for twenty-some years. I really could see, "There but for the grace of God go I," because I came that close to

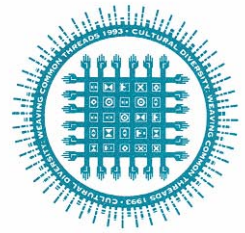
flunking out of Howard University. But you know I had parents that I could have flunked out and gone home. They'd have sent me to another school. They might not have paid for it, but they would have arranged for me to get there and get a job. I had parents who would stick with me through thick and thin, as many of you did, or you wouldn't be here.

And so when I saw somebody who did not have parents — though they had money and had all of the opportunities and disowned him on one failure — I said, "Here, take a dollar." And I was poor then. Walking the streets of Atlanta and talking to our homeless population I got the kind of an education that you never get behind a Mayor's desk.

Putting on some old clothes and going out on the playground and still trying to play basketball a little while, and you listen to young people talk and you hear things that are frightening things. We

had three kids — you probably read it — who stabbed a retired television executive who retired from television with multiple sclerosis and who was in a wheelchair and couldn't defend himself. And three middle-class white kids stabbed him fourteen times and poured salt in his wounds and took two or three days to kill him. You wonder what kind of hostility and what kind of sickness is going on out there. I tend to view all violence, all anti-social behavior as an illness. I know that makes me a liberal, but a liberal is basically a person who believes in the possibility of change through reason, rather than violence. That's not bad. Somebody has got to plumb the depths of the anguish, the loneliness, the violence of the homeless. Somebody has got to reach out and hear what's going on in the minds of these young people.

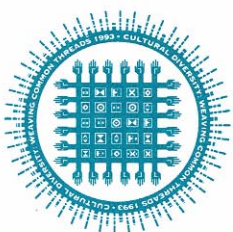
My wife, with the Fulton County Commission on Youth, took people who were supposed to be important — elected officials, principals, bankers, social worker types, religious leaders — took them around and let them listen to young people for a day in about six different areas of the city. They just set up shop and said, "Here are your leaders. Here are the people who are paid to try to give you some help. Young people come on out and tell us what you want to." We were amazed at the sophisticated analysis of opinion that came from people we didn't know. We didn't know their parents, their schools didn't organize them. There was a network of youth, and they in turn brought little children, five and six years old, who talked about what it was like growing up in their particular households. I'm saying we got an understanding in depth of a level of diversity that even those of us who work at and try don't often reach.



6 . . . we were marching for access. We were marching for the right to communicate and because of some of that marching, and because of the awareness of people-power that emerged later in the sixties, when we ended up with cable television and the proliferation of channels, there was a movement of people who said, "Wait a minute. This may be an answer. This may be an answer where people don't have to go to the big businesses of the world to buy time, to get a minute, where they don't have to be controlled by any particular power oligarchy, but where people can have the freedom and the opportunity to say whatever in the hell they please whenever in the hell they want to!"

— Andrew Young

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“But what we see is a proliferation of freedom. We see an expansion of access, and with an expansion of freedom and access we have an expansion of understanding, and expansion of knowledge, and hopefully that will lead to an expansion of peace and prosperity where we all will learn to live together as brothers and sisters, because not only do we tolerate each other, but we respect and understand and even begin to love one another.”

— Andrew Young

Remembering Martin’s quote that violence is the language of the unheard, I think for this society to survive, we’ve got to find more ways to hear more and to give more access to more people, and to give in-depth access. I’m afraid that public access can become a ghetto also, and that it can just reach the certain few hip people that keep up with it. There are very few places where the Mayor of the city, for instance ... can get an hour or two hours to sit down and discuss something seriously. People who have foreign policy ideas and concerns...We have a huge Nigerian community here. There are Nigerians who want the military government to get out of power and allow Chief Abiola, who won the election, to be installed as the new president of Nigeria. But there are also some other Nigerians that have another point of view. I probably learned more about Haiti talking to Haitians in Atlanta on the streets than I did through anything I read in the New York Times or heard on even CNN. Because you get it like it really is when the people in our communities have an opportunity to discuss their feelings. We have got to find a way to not only give Americans access to each other and to the media, but we’ve got to find a way to give us access to the world. We’re called upon to think about too many things. I’m supposed to be a foreign policy expert. I do not know what’s going on in Somalia. I do not understand quite what happened in Ethiopia, in Eritrea, in Tigré. I don’t keep up enough with Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to know on a day to day basis what’s really happening, and yet there are people in your cities who, whether you agree with them or not,



their opinions need to be heard. There needs to be an informed discussion about what’s going on around us.

Ultimately there are a variety of problems that we have to understand in order to coexist. There used to be a notion about democracy that we were the mighty melting pot. Well, we didn’t melt. We’re in the pot, but we didn’t cook down to a least-common-denominator soup. We really are much more like a stew. . .The potatoes are separate from the

peas and the carrots and the onions and the meat. But I always like a stew that’s really got a lot in it, and especially when you get some of those weird spices so that you don’t know what you’re eating. My wife says when I fix stew it’s sort of a mystery stew; not only does she not know what’s in it, I don’t know what’s in it. And that’s the kind of society in which we live. But that’s the society that I think is probably the strongest — probably has the strongest potential of any social order so far designed and devised by human beings. And when we can get together and cuss each other out. You know, being on access doesn’t mean having agreement.

But what we see is a proliferation of freedom. We see an expansion of access, and with an expansion of freedom and access we have an expansion of understanding, and expansion of knowledge, and hopefully that will lead to an expansion of peace and prosperity where we all will learn to live together as brothers and sisters, because not only do we tolerate each other, but we respect and understand and even begin to love one another. Thank you and God bless you.



Local Planning Committee Chair W. Chris Leonard, CNN Vice President Xernona Clayton, the Honorable Andrew Young, and Alliance Executive Director T. Andrew Lewis following Young’s address at the Alliance convention.

The purpose of this paper is to place communications access in a wider perspective for you, one which will help you understand why you are driven in the direction you are and provide a stronger basis for your defense of community media. Most of us are caught so much into the day-to-day, we forget that we are like salmon in this great race, new beings rushing upstream against tremendous odds, wasting no motion in our effort to pass our ideas on to a new generation.

By Anthony Riddle

n The Beginning. Every evolutionary change is preceded by an improvement in the means of communication of the organisms.

In the early days, there were only single-celled plant life. They began to poison their atmosphere with oxygen. The earth, **Gaia**, is balance. She seeks balance. Wherever there is imbalance, there are new niches formed. Into this niche was born the oxygen burner: Animal. Animals metabolized oxygen back into CO₂. This new metabolism required sugar, which the organism itself was unable to create from sunlight. It was dependent upon the photosynthetic plant form. Animals, therefore, had to *move* to the food source. In the beginning, perhaps it sucked the source dry and moved on. Later, those animals which tended to leave the host alive stood a better chance of survival. Symbiosis.

In the meantime, one can imagine the photosynthetic forms growing larger and larger to give themselves more surface on which capture the sun's energy. Perhaps they drifted downward sometimes, away from the light in the sea. They would produce more in better light. The feeding animal could *taste* this in the availability of sugars produced and in the by-products. **These by-products, chemicals released by the processes of a plant lacking enough light, became a form of communication between the two organisms.**

The Animal, which **had** to be mobile, could then use it's swimming ability to push the plant to better light, enhancing the survival of both. Cooperation. *Communication via chemical.* One can imagine the relationship being so productive it proved worthwhile to continue through the generations. Imagine many of the little swimming animals around one large plant cell, all learning **over many centuries** to swim as a team. Many scientists, particularly those developing theories of Gaia, believe that the single-celled creatures with cilia, those little beating swimming hairs all around, are the direct descendents of this early cooperation between plants and animals, that the cooperation continues.

How did one generation of multi-celled creature pass on this cooperation, these protocols, to the next? **DNA.** DNA is that immensely complicated double helix of information contained in our cells. It is sometimes called "twisted pair"—not unlike the wire used by the telephone companies to carry communications of another kind.

Without DNA, this intergenerational communications tool, each new generation would have to learn lessons anew. Consider the invention of language in the same light: written, oral and *visual*.... How different is the code written in a book from that which we call DNA? Their fundamental purpose is the same: to communicate instructions.



RODNEY KING, GAIA, & THE BIRTH OF THE NEW P-FUNK NATION

*or Toward developing an understanding
of the Spiritual/Evolutionary/Genetic
basis for community media*

By Anthony Riddle

*Presented at the Alliance's
1993 Convention
in Atlanta*

As multi-celled life took hold, it was necessary that there be greater levels of communication in order to coordinate the many organisms which worked together as one. A cell or a part of a cell which could be counted on to secrete various chemicals became a communications worker.

The action of enzymes as a form of communication between cells of complex organisms was a major communications innovation that allowed for greater complexity of organization and function.

One can imagine as well, that as these organisms continued to grow their need for communication grew as well. Enzymes could be carried around the body quickly if roads — arteries, capillaries and veins — could be developed. Still, this had limitations. How could a large organism, a mobile organism, get communications back and forth from processing centers (brains) to reactors (muscles)? Certain cells began to specialize and become communicators using a natural phenomenon moving near the speed of light — electricity.

This nervous system, of which we are so proud, is a communications system operating between billions of *separate organisms* within our body, causing them to act in something like harmony for the good of the whole.

The cells of your body live and die individually — just like we do. Yet who would doubt the continuing identity of your body in this lifetime, despite the fact that your cells are replaced in whole by new organisms every seven years? The same is true of the human organism — currently, there are five billion people replaced entirely every 100 years or so. Yet there is this continuing identity of *humanity* over the centuries.

Is it so hard to believe that these five billion organisms spread around the planet could be striving to be one? Forget any lame **Age of Aquarius** connotations. We're talking hard-core need to cooperate for individual and group survival. There will not be enough food or water for the population when it doubles within the next century unless we cooperate and organize.

When most people lived in villages, they could come to the marketplace and share goods and ideas with their neighbors. They could interact easily with everyone on the planet whose activities might have an impact on their lives and environment by transporting themselves physically to one location.

Can't be done today. Five-hundred oil wells burning in the desert in one part of the world can change weather patterns all over the world. Death of a tree in the Amazon can bode poorly for life in Canada.

How are we going to cope? How can we begin to communicate better? Will we sit back and watch as our total group activity destroys the conditions to which we are best adapted? Who will save us?

Rodney King. Who has not heard of Rodney King. Who does not have the image of that magic moment etched forever into their brain? Who can doubt the power that that image has had to affect the lives of people who did not know Rodney King or any of the policemen involved? Who of us were actually there at that time?

continued next page

And how many of us are aware that the photographer of that image had just bought the camera that very day, that he took the camera out of the box just in time to shoot a scene bound to become part of the national consciousness?

Lithuania. Do you remember when the military was busily trying to overthrow Gorbachev? The Eastern bloc was in turmoil. At one point the military moved to take over the television station in Lithuania. The people surrounded the TV station, protecting it with their bodies and lives. The military pulled back until dark, waiting. An act was taking place which has taken place thousands of times over the centuries: Prepare for a bloodbath covered with lies.

That night, the military moved in. They began to brutalize the people without provocation. They issued the typical cover story: the people had attacked the military and had to be controlled. Little did they know, someone in *the mob* had a small, hand-held camcorder. Within hours, much of the world saw on CNN the cruel subjugation of peaceful protestors by well-armed soldiers. The military was forced into a hasty retreat.

Peace.Net and Yeltsin. During that same revolution, a subtle irony took place. The clever politburo members shut Gorbachev and other leaders off from communicating their situation to the rest of the world. So they thought. They cut off the standard telephone, television and radio communications.

What they didn't count on was the Internet, that ubiquitous, uncentered system of communication that webs the world and is *growing at a rate of 15% per month*. They didn't keep up with the current technology. They didn't know that Yeltsin was coordinating his moves with those of NATO throughout the insurrection. The irony was that he was connected by computer link through PEACENET, a network originally set up in California to coordinate the anti-war effort in the US. Strange bedfellows, indeed.

Tiananmen Square. Most of us remember the stunning pictures from Tiananmen Square in those first hours that the Chinese government closed down on the democracy movement. If you think back, you will remember that the first pictures over CNN were stills. They were night scenes of fire and people running and voice-overs by the correspondent.

Those pictures were not meant to get out to the world so fast, though the government allowed them to be taken. They knew that videotape had to be uplinked to satellite or carried through customs. They knew that photographers had to process film and carry it through customs. They felt they had controls sufficiently tight to clean up the mess before any images got out.

What they didn't count on was a new product by Canon: A still camera that didn't use film, but a floppy-disk. This meant that the reporter could take the picture to the closest phone and, using a modem, by-pass all the government control to get the picture to the world. The rest is history.

Prophets, Artists, Engineers, Profits. It is a stupidity to believe that a buck can ever drive itself to market. The real hierarchy of human creation is this:

There is a pond, which is the people. A rock breaks the surface of the pond – that is the current event.

The Prophets and Visionaries see the future. They see the ripples made by the rock and predict the outcome.

Artists and Communicators give *form* to the vision, to carry it to the people.

Engineers are washed by the wave, the collective unconscious, and hurry to their task *materializing* the will of the human organism.

The market Profiteers find the economy to *support* the production and the distribution of the fruit.

We are at crossroads of human evolution. There is no doubt that the engineers have answered our call to bring us together. Where was that call?

The P-Funk Call. AKA "The Mothership Connection". In the words of the native people of this land, "Mitakwe Oyasin" or "All my relations." This is the concept of balance, of Gaia, of connection. It says that I am related to everything that is in the earth and the sky, that all these things are my relations.

In the words of John Lennon, "You may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one, I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one."

"Workers of the World Unite" Karl Marx. (*Timing is everything. At the time there were tremendous physical impediments to this happening. As of now Marxism is being thoroughly discredited. But suppose Marx had been a little distracted and the theory was advanced for the first time by someone else today. The means of travel and communication are nearly within the grasp of the working person. It might have been a different, more successful proposition....*)

In the words of Bob Marley, "How good and how pleasant it would be, before God and man, to see the unification of all Africans."

And of other Rasta who say I-dren for Brethren to always include the concept of I in the larger concept of the whole. Instead of we, it is "I and I" because we are both the same I together.

Or the Tao which places *Unity of all things in harmony* as the central organizing concept of the universe.

Or Albert Einstein, that Prophet of science who stated the same as the Tao and sought to prove mathematically that the universe could be united under one central unified field.

Or Kwame Nkrumah, liberator of Ghana and the founder of the Organization of African Unity who noted that "Organization determines *everything*."

Or Ashley Montague, the anthropologist who noted a long time ago that the advent of new transportation, immigration and communication would create a new culture, a cross-pollination that would change the face of humanity *forever*....

And that is the P-Funk: That synthesis of the new, fast hip culture. The P-Funk, The Bomb as it be called is the blend of all the different influences you are bombarded with now that this vast new communications system begins to crank up.

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ences you are bombarded with now that this vast new communications system begins to crank up. It is **WorldBeat**, it is **CNN**, it is **NASA** live from outer-space. It's the old **cat lady** up your street and **Dan Rather** surfing the access channels. It be **James Brown** mixed by **Public Enemy** and brought to you by **Sun Ra**, **Guillermo Gomez-Pena** and the **Pillsbury Dough-Boy**. Do you know who all these people are? It is the move from books to film to television to high speed **Information Super-Highways** as the metaphor for our lives.

It is crazy, it is fast, *it is inevitable* and it is useless if we don't put it in some kind of larger perspective.

Taking from **George Clinton**, the Master of **P-Funk**, Guru of the complex, weaver of the tapestry of modern life, in a miraculous dance number from *America Eats Her Young* entitled "Biological Speculation":

"We're just a biological speculation, sitting here vibrating, wonder-

ing what we're vibratin' about."

Put another way, in the eloquent words of **Admiral Stockwell**, "Who am I, why am I here?" That is the question. To be or not to be is not the question, excuse me **Shakespeare**. As per **Descartes**, "I think, therefore I am *already*."

That we are changing and will no longer one day be in *this form* is inevitable. Already, we are not who we were a few hundred short years ago....

Fighting The Good Fight. So, why must we fight, live and die for access? *It is an evolutionary struggle.* It is for the hearts and minds of all the people. It is for the future. Let's look at our brain for a model.

Proto Cells and Nutrition. When a baby is born, full of potential, the brain is full of proto-cells, undifferentiated and dividing like mad. Eventually, some will become nerve cells, others support cells. How does the change take place. All are vying to become nerves. But there *"are sites where the neural growth factors are secreted. A different chemical from each control point. Coding in each cell tells it what to do if it encounters such and such a mixture of growth factors. If it gets enough of just the right combination, it gets to be a nerve cell. If not, a supporter."*

"Also," Dr Wolling went on, *"the cells secrete chemicals of their own, to suppress their neighbors, a lot like the quiet chemical warfare waged by plants...."*

"Here, the food they compete for isn't really food. It's a brew of substances needed for further development. If the cell gets too little it dies, in a manner of speaking." (Earth, Pg. 342 David Brin)

There will be many nerve endings in this brain, in this new nervous system. All are vying for the growth factor, the nutrition. For us, the nutrition is money, it is community, it is political power. It is *interconnection*.

Paying the Piper. Cable is a bottle. Currently, everyone is drinking out of that bottle. But what if the soda runs out? Or what if the public finds another bottle? Or what if someone – the government, the cable company, the telephone company – puts a cork in it? No, this communication is *too important a freedom* to be wed to one technology. We need many ways out of the bottle. Thus, at MTN we flirt with the Internet.

Who knows what the future will bring? If you look at all the services and standards that are vying to become the system, it really is obvious that there is an evolutionary struggle going on to determine how we are going to talk to each other. Who will control the standards? Who will define the basic framework of the new system? These are critical to everything that comes after. Read *"Cat's Cradle"* by Kurt Vonnegut.

One possible future of access may be through the entry of telephone companies to the home data/entertainment market. If what is proposed is a switched system, one in which the viewer chooses from a long menu of services much like a phone book, and uses a remote to "dial-up" the service of his/her choice, that may not be all bad for access.

By then, franchise fees would probably be eliminated and the Cities would probably be chafing more than usual at the idea of pro-

...there is an evolutionary struggle going on to determine how we are going to talk to each other. Who will control the standards? Who will define the basic framework of the new system? These are critical to everything that comes after.

viding support.

The telephone system would charge a small fee to program providers like HBO, Access, the Encyclopedia Channel and Home Security Network for providing the service of charging the viewer according to rates set by the provider. Much like 976 numbers today.

We would make our funding through this charge.

Suddenly, no one could complain about the subject matter of our programs because they have to be dialed-up. Also, there would no longer be much public funding of the service, it would instead be funded by the viewer voluntarily.

We could derive whole support for our noble public offerings like "Foodshelf Tonight" and "The Mayor Speaks" by having nice high charges for our formerly baneful, embarrassing programs in *bad taste*.

An Exaggeration. LaMonte and Sam at Tucson Access would begin with the benediction, "Keep your hands off *The Great Satan At-Large*. That's our program, we borned it and we need the money." You'd look up and Tucson would have an ad in your daily paper for the program advertising a dial-up 1-900 number. We'd all be competing for revenue across state lines.

Anything goes, suddenly. We'd exploit the masses to make money for the masses. It'd be like low-class pay-per-view. (*Is that redundant?*) We could do one time only events – like suicides. *Community Suicide In Focus Tonight*. Pay-per-view suicides, \$85 per. We'd make a killing.

In Actualty. Anyone can be an information provider, so what is the reason, under this model, for having an Access center? *To provide production equipment beyond the average person's financial capability. And what about advertising? There'll be a lot of services out there and a group effort with a recogizable name like your center's might be easier to pick out of the white noise.*

Yeah, I think this is the way things are going. The question is, how we gonna deal wit it?

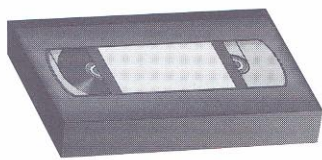
(Not) The End. As you know, the world stands on the brink of an evolutionary change. Technology barely imagined a decade ago arrives with the capability of bringing together the people of the world as a single community. Ten years ago, as my friends and I sold jewelry on the streets of Atlanta, we evangelized **World Unity** to all who would listen.

How could we have imagined that that unification would arrive in a box as a camcorder, be delivered to the home via cable or sprout as a world consciousness living in computers on the Internet?

How could we have imagined that that unification would arrive in a box as a camcorder, be delivered to the home via cable or sprout as a world consciousness living in computers on the Internet?

...Or that *Power to the People* would strain, in the form of a massively democratized technology, to touch the hand of *Everyone*?

Anthony Riddle is the new chair of the Alliance for Community Media. He is executive director of the Minneapolis Television Network, 125 SE Main Street, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Telephone 612/331-8576. Fax 612/331-8578. e-mail address is <mtn@MR.NET>.



Hometown Video Tapes Available

Tapes of the 16th Annual Hometown Video Festival Awards Night ceremony and the Hometown Video Festival compilation are now available from the national office.

The nearly two-hour awards ceremony tape, shot on location at the 1993 national convention in Atlanta, is \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members, on 1/2" VHS, or for \$55 for members, \$70 for non-members, on 3/4" tapes.

The three-hour compilation features the full programs of selected Hometown winners, and is available at \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members, on 1/2" VHS, or at \$60 for members, \$75 for non-members, for 3/4" tapes.

Tapes of previous Hometown Video Festivals awards ceremonies and compilations are also still available, less \$5 on the above prices.

For further information, contact the Alliance at 666 11th St. NW, Suite 806, Washington, DC 20001-4542, or by phone at 202/393-2650.

110 Local Programs Honored in Atlanta

Hometown Video Festival Awards Announced

A total of 110 local cable programs were honored in the 1993 Hometown Video Festival during a July 22 awards ceremony at the Georgia Tech Theatre for the Arts in Atlanta, Georgia during the 1993 Alliance for Community Media National Convention and Trade Show.

The Miami Valley Cable Council, based in Centerville, Ohio (a Dayton suburb) received five awards, the highest number from one community this year. Included among MVCC's honors was a program called "The Arnie of Oz," an amusing spoof of the classic movie which encourages viewers to use their brains, heart and courage to participate in public access programming. MVCC was also honored for its "Community Action News" (produced by local volunteers), its very creative computer art efforts, and unique program promotions.

Seven major "Overall Excellence" awards were presented. The honors for "Overall Excellence in Public Access" went to Brookline Access Television in Brookline, Massachusetts (Annual Budget under \$400,000) and the Chicago Access Corporation in Chicago, Illinois (Annual Budget \$400,000 or more). The award for "Overall Excellence in Educational Access" (Annual Budget under \$400,000) was presented this year to BHC - The Educational Connection, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The "Overall Excellence in Government Access" honors were received by Channel 31 for the City of Lakewood, California (Annual Budget under \$400,000) and CityTV of Santa Monica, California (Annual Budget \$400,000 or more). And picking up the awards for "Overall Excellence in Local Origination" were Continental Cablevision of Marblehead, Massachusetts (Annual Budget under \$400,000) and Vision Cable of Pinellas County, Florida (Annual Budget \$400,000 or more).

Honored entries came from 74 cities across the United States and Canada. Communities with multiple winners were Centerville, Ohio (five); and Clearwater, Florida; Washington, DC; and New York City with four each. Three awards each went home to Arlington, Virginia; Chicago, Illinois; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Los Angeles and Santa Monica,



California; Somerville, Massachusetts; and Tucson, Arizona. Cities with two award winners each are Bloomfield Hills and Rochester Hills, Michigan; Brookline, Massachusetts; Honolulu, Hawaii; New Orleans, Louisiana; Surrey and Victoria, British Columbia; Tampa, Florida; and West Hartford, Connecticut.

The Alliance for Community Media's Hometown Video Festival, now in its 16th year, is the largest video festival honoring achievements in local cable programming. The winners were selected from over 2,000 entries produced in 420 cities from 40 states and five Canadian provinces.

The Festival recognizes outstanding local programs that are produced by or for public, educational, and government access facilities and by local origination departments of cable systems. Hometown is unique because the works of media professionals are judged separately from those produced by community volunteers. In addition, the videotapes entered are judged on how they address community concerns as well as technical quality and execution.

Sustaining sponsors of the 1993 Hometown Video Festival included the Arts & Entertainment Network, Cable World, Commodore Business Machines, Cox Cable Communications, MultiChannel News/Cablevision, and Videomaker.

Category sponsors were Bravo, Cablevision Systems Development Corporation, 3M Professional Audio/Video & Specialty Products Division, and Mind Extension University.

For further information about Hometown, contact Randy VanDalsen, Hometown Video Festival, c/o The Buske Group, 2015 "J" Street, Suite 28, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone 916/441-6277.

A complete list of Hometown Video Festival Winners follows on the next two pages. If your center might be interested in becoming a judging site for the 1994 Hometown Video Festival, see story on page 22.

1993 Hometown Video Festival Winners

The winners are listed here. Congratulations to all. Single programs are listed with the Δ symbol, and series are indicated with a >.

ABOUT PUBLIC ACCESS-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **Arnie of Oz**, Dan Hrkman, Miami Valley Cable Council, Centerville, OH

ABOUT PUBLIC ACCESS-VOLUNTEER

Δ **Access Showcase #5**, Zillah Matulonis, CABAC, Winthrop Harbor, IL

ACCESS PROGRAM PROMOTION-PROFESSIONAL

> **MVCC Promos**, MVCC Staff, Miami Valley Cable Council, Centerville, OH

Δ **Access Promo #1**, Tim O'Grady, U.S. Cable Zion Access Studio, Zion, IL

ACCESS PROGRAM PROMOTION-VOLUNTEER

> **GRTV Access Program Promotions**, James & John Jongsma, GRTV Grand Rapids, MI,

Δ **Promo: Blizzard of 92**, Ronald Vecchia, Winthrop Community Access Television, Winthrop, MA

ARTS PROGRAMMING-PROFESSIONAL

> **A Fleeting Glimpse**, Michael Decsi, Rogers Community 10 - Toronto, Toronto, ON

Δ **For The Love of Paint: Recent Works by Franklin White**, Kelley Ellsworth, DCTV, Washington, DC

ARTS PROGRAMMING-VOLUNTEER

> **Made in Somerville**, Sha Hsing Min, Somerville Community Access TV, Somerville, MA

Δ **America Se Descubre**, Justin Davis-Metznar, DCTV, Washington, DC

COMPUTER ART-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **The MVCC 1992/1993 Graphics Expo**, MVCC Staff, Miami Valley Cable Council, Centerville, OH

COMPUTER ART-VOLUNTEER

Δ **Going Critical Intro**, James & John Jongsma, GRTV, Grand Rapids, MI

DOCUMENTARY EVENT-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **Stegan Chemical: The Poisoning of a Mexican Community**, Mark R. Day, Day Communications, Vista, CA

DOCUMENTARY EVENT-VOLUNTEER

Δ **Hard Cover: Is This the Promised Land?**, Denise Zaccardi & HARD COVER Youth, Community TV Network, Chicago Access Corp., Chicago, IL

DOCUMENTARY PROFILE-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **A Time To Shine**, NYS Games For The Physically Challenged, Ann Balderston-Glynn, Cablevision of Hicksville, Hicksville, NY

DOCUMENTARY PROFILE-VOLUNTEER

Δ **Welcome to Chimney Corners**, Pat Truscello, Brookline Access Television, Brookline, MA

DOCUMENTARY PUBLIC AWARENESS-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **The Nation Erupts**, Cynthia Lopez, Not Channel Zero & Deep Dish TV Network, Deep Dish TV Network, New York, NY

DOCUMENTARY PUBLIC AWARENESS-

VOLUNTEER

Δ **Video Dialtone: Malling Our Free Speech**, Paper Tiger Television, Manhattan Neighborhood Network, New York, NY

EDUCATIONAL-PROFESSIONAL

> **Down to Earth**, David Campbell & David Flux, Rogers Community 10 Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

Δ **The Party's Over**, Jeff Fogarty & Michael Leddy, Cox Cable Rhode Island, Cranston, RI

EDUCATIONAL-VOLUNTEER

> **1860 Belvo**, John Milnek & Miamisburg City Schools, Miami Valley Cable Council, Centerville, OH

Δ **The Paper Forest**, Glen Pla, Jones Intercable Public Access, Tampa, FL

ENTERTAINMENT-PROFESSIONAL

> **The Funny Pages**, George Lacny & Ozzie Owens, Rogers Cable TV, Surrey, BC

Δ **The F.B.I. Guys**, Paul Darrigo, Kevin Crawford, John Fedele & Michael Raso, High Speed/Low Drag Productions, Comcast Cable, Totowa, NJ

ENTERTAINMENT-VOLUNTEER

> **Sez Who?**, Rich Bysina, Addison Community Television, Addison, IL

Δ **Joy Farm**, Mark G. E., Milwaukee Access Telecommunications Authority, Milwaukee, WI

ETHNIC/CULTURAL EXPRESSION-PROFESSIONAL

> **Linea Directa**, Eduardo Lopez, Office on Latino Affairs, City Cable 16, Washington, DC

Δ **Interview**, Rob Sheppard, Cable Access, Cable TV North Central, Egan, MN

ETHNIC/CULTURAL EXPRESSION-VOLUNTEER

> **Not Channel Zero**, Thomas Poole, Black Planet Productions, New York, NY,

Δ **Insights: Indonesia**, Leah Kihra, Morgan Lasco & Ian Gillespie, Kamehameha Secondary School, O'lelo, Honolulu, HI

FREE SPEECH MINUTE-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **Public Access is Free Speech Promo**, Lisa Flores, Comcast Cablevision, Pontiac, MI

FREE SPEECH MINUTE-VOLUNTEER

Δ **A Viewpoint Video**, Jan James, TCTV, Olympia, WA

GAY & LESBIAN PROG.-PROFESSIONAL

> **Just for the Record**, Valda Lewis, Cox Cable Inc. New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

Δ **An Unexpected Journey**, Andrea Lawrence, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Denver Community Television, Denver, CO

GAY & LESBIAN PROG.-VOLUNTEER

> **Rubber Queen - An AIDS Docu-Diary (SERIES)**, Chris Belcher & Franklin Wassmer, DCTV, Washington, DC

Δ **One in 10 People**, Karen Brown, Fairfax Cable Access Corp., Springfield, VA

INFORMATIONAL-PROFESSIONAL

> **It's Your Call**, Sandy Jacobson, CityTV of Santa Monica, Santa Monica, CA

Δ **Global Visions**, Laura Greenfield, City TV, Santa Monica, CA

INFORMATIONAL-VOLUNTEER

> **Politically Correct Cooking**, Jai Tomlinson, Fairfax Cable Access Corp, Vienna, VA

Δ In the Steps of William Shakespeare:

London, Jim Bride, Continental Cablevision, Dedham, MA

INNOVATIVE-PROFESSIONAL

> **Mind Over Television**, Mort Hill, Double Helix Corp., St. Louis, MO

Δ **Global Video Addiction**, Patrick Randall, GRTV, Grand Rapids, MI

INNOVATIVE-VOLUNTEER

> **This is Only A Test**, Meryl Perlson, Jim Ospenson & Mike Kuetemeyer, Termite TV Collective, Philadelphia, PA

Δ **Alternating Currents**, Mark Lydon & James Fry, Rogers Victoria II, Victoria, BC

INSTRUCTIONAL/TRAINING-PROFESSIONAL

> **Under the Microscope**, Scott Schiller, Chuck Wolfe & David Zahren, Prince George's County Public Schools, Landover, MD

Δ **Detectors of Humo Salvan Vidas-Smoke Detectors Save Lives**, Mark Hernandez, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Tualatin Valley Community Access, Aloha, OR

INSTRUCTIONAL/TRAINING-VOLUNTEER

> **Salon Glamour & Etiquette with Gloria**, Gloria Gaines-Hanna, Metrovision of Oakland, Farmington Hills, MI

Δ **Identifying Connecticut's Wetlands and Watercourses**, Carla Guerra, West Hartford Community Television, West Hartford, CT

INTERNATIONAL-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **No Hay Paz - There is No Peace**, Roberto Arevalo, Somerville Community Access TV, Somerville, MA

INTERNATIONAL-VOLUNTEER

> **This is India**, Dr. Arvindkumar Parikh, Cox Cable, New Orleans, LA

Δ **Artsagh-Nagorna Karabagh (Armenian Struggle for Survival)**, Eva Medzorian, Continental Cablevision, Winchester, MA

L.O. PROGRAM PROMOTION-PROFESSIONAL

> **Cablevision's Long Island One**, Barry Romanski, Cablevision of Long Island, Hauppauge, NY

Δ **Vision Cable & Me**, Michael Henry, Vision Cable of Pinellas, Inc., Clearwater, FL

LIVE-PROFESSIONAL

> **The Canadian Underwater Safari**, Bob Lowrie John Carswell & Roger Frampton, Rogers Community 11, Victoria, BC

Δ **No Dogs or Philosophers Allowed**, Ken Knisely, Milk Bottle Productions, Inc., Arlington Community Television Arlington, VA

LIVE-VOLUNTEER

> **Live From Cell Block C - Moe O' Less Review the Movies**, Leigh Switzer & Annie Garvey, Lamdrac Classic Productions, Ames, IA

Δ **Election '92**, Allison Rogers, B.J. Otey & Kevin Howell, GHS-TV, Germantown, TN

LOCAL NEWS-PROFESSIONAL

> **South Central Community News**, Angela Cranon, Continental Cablevision - So. Central, Carson, CA

LOCAL NEWS-VOLUNTEER

> **Community Action News (C.A.N.)**, Community Action News Crew, Miami Valley Cable Council, Centerville, OH

MAGAZINE FORMAT-PROFESSIONAL

> **Parks Plus**, George Callaghan & Gail Eskew, Fairfax County Dept. of Consumer Affairs, Cable Ch. 16, Fairfax, VA

MAGAZINE FORMAT-VOLUNTEER

> **Back Alley**, Greg Haney, Club Hate Productions, Syracuse, NY

MUNICIPAL-PROFESSIONAL

> **Earthworks**, Lynn Marvin, City of Tampa, Government Access TV, Tampa, FL

Δ **1992 Carlsbad State of the City Address**, Val Brown, KDCI Daniels Cablevision, Carlsbad, CA

MUNICIPAL-VOLUNTEER

Δ **Meridian Magazine**, Ben Stark, HOM-TV Interns, HOM-TV Channel 21, Okemos, MI

Δ **The Mobile Medical Team: On the Road to Hope**, Lin Libecap, Pinellas Co. Govt. Access, Clearwater, FL

MUSIC VIDEO-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **Flight 51**, Jamie Smith, City of Rochester Hills, Rochester Hills, MI

MUSIC VIDEO-VOLUNTEER

Δ **Equity Refugees**, Geoffrey Riley & Joi Riley, Ashland Cable Access, Phoenix, OR

ORIGINAL TELEPLAY-PROFESSIONAL

Δ **The Dead - Water**, Peter Conrad, Rogers Community Television, Kitchener, ON

ORIGINAL TELEPLAY-VOLUNTEER

Δ **Lazarus the Legend**, Matthew Frazzini, Frazzini Productions, Erie, PA

OVERALL EDUCATIONAL ACCESS < 400

Compilation, Donna Learmont & BHC Team, BHC Educational Access, Bloomfield Hills, MI

OVERALL EDUCATIONAL ACCESS > 400

Cable-TAP, Marci Crawford, WLRN Cable-TAP, Miami, FL

OVERALL GOVERNMENT ACCESS < 400

Channel 31 Sampler, Linda Price, City of Lakewood, Lakewood, CA

OVERALL GOVERNMENT ACCESS > 400

Overall Excellence Government Access, Laura Greenfield, City TV, Santa Monica, CA

OVERALL LOCAL ORIGATION < 400

Overall Excellence in LO, Joan Goloboy, Continental Cablevision, MHTV-3, Marblehead, MA

OVERALL LOCAL ORIGATION > 400

Overall Excellence in Local Origination, Brian Aungst, Vision Cable of Pinellas, Inc., Clearwater, FL

OVERALL PUBLIC ACCESS < 400

BAT Overall, Deborah Blackington, Brookline Access Television, Brookline, MA

OVERALL PUBLIC ACCESS > 400

Overall Excellence: Public Access, Barbara Popovic, Chicago Access Corporation, Chicago, IL

PERFORMING ARTS-PROFESSIONAL

> **Rock America**, Dov Kelemer, BHTV, Los Angeles, CA

continued next page



Δ - Single Program
> - Series

continued from previous page

Δ 1992 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, Loren Coulter, Multnomah Community Television, Gresham, OR

PERFORMING ARTS-VOLUNTEER

> Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra Presents, Annabel Mason, Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra Video, Access Vision, Battle Creek, MI
Δ In the Zone, Paul Finocchiario, MPAC, San Francisco, CA

PROGRAMMING BY SENIOR CITIZENS-PROFESSIONAL

> AgeWise, Tom Taylor, Senior Community Video Project, Inc., Portland Cable Access, Portland, OR
Δ Stoneham - More Than a Shootown, Joanne Harriman, Continental Cablevision, Stoneham, MA

PROGRAMMING BY SENIOR CITIZENS-VOLUNTEER

> Bedtime Story with Magic Mouse, Job Matusow, Tucson Community Cable Corp, Tucson, AZ.
Δ Silver Time Soap Opera, Mildred Hanson, Silver Time Soap Opera, Inc., Austin Community Television, Austin, TX

PROGRAMMING BY YOUTH-VOLUNTEER

> The Real Deal, Laura Vural & 20 Youth Producers, Rise & Shine Productions, Manhattan Neighborhood Network, New York, NY

Δ Hawai'i Loa: A Return to the Source, Pi'lani Peters, Kamehameha Secondary School, 'Olelo, Honolulu, HI

PROGRAMMING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS-PROFESSIONAL

> Senior Focus, Maureen McCarthy, jw Productions, Inc., Rochester Hills, MI
Δ Happy New Year Heritage '92, Wendell Ellis, Island Cablevision, Charlottetown, PE

PROGRAMMING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS-VOLUNTEER

> Discussions Unlimited with Sonia, Sonia Rachelska & Nadine Maynard, Bloomfield Community Television, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Δ Myth of Aging, Alice Taylor, Oceanside Senior Citizens Center, Oceanside Community Television, Oceanside, CA

PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH -PROFESSIONAL

> Little Humans, Christle Leonard, Halifax Cable, Halifax, NS
Δ The Wonderful World of Fire Safety, David Blackwell, Multnomah Community Television, Vancouver, WA

PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH -VOLUNTEER

> Double Elimination, Teen Staff at LISD-TV, LISD-TV, LISD-TV Cable Channel 12, Lubbock, TX
Δ Summer Fun, Denise Webb, Tucson

Community Cable, Tucson, AZ

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS-PROFESSIONAL

> Earthquake Preparedness PSA's, Robin Gee, Los Angeles Cityview Ch. 35, Los Angeles, CA
Δ Ridelink, Robin Gee, Los Angeles Cityview Ch. 35, Los Angeles, CA

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS-VOLUNTEER

> Ladies Against Women Against AIDS, Cambridge Women in Cable, Women's Commission, Cambridge Community Television, Cambridge, MA
Δ Prejudice, Kim Orr, Palomar College, San Marcos, CA

RELIGIOUS-PROFESSIONAL

Δ Peoplelink "Rauna May", Bob Cottingham, Rogers Community Four, Surrey, BC

RELIGIOUS-VOLUNTEER

> Angel's Bridge, Garrett Craig, Community Access Television, Industry, CA
Δ Song of Praise - Street Level, William Jones, Vision Cable, Clearwater, FL

SPORTS-PROFESSIONAL

> CTV - 3 Sports Parade, Sanford Day & John Molari, Continental Cablevision, Lawrence, MA

Δ H30, Mark Foo, 'Olelo, Haleiwa, HI

SPORTS-VOLUNTEER

> Inside Fishing, George Chart, Jones

Intercable Inc., Kenosha, WI
Δ Frog Mountain, Vicki Evans & Dominic Busher, Tucson Community Cable, Tucson, AZ

TALK SHOW-PROFESSIONAL

> Slumber Party, N. J. Heubusch, Arlington Community Television, Arlington, VA
Δ No Dogs or Philosophers Allowed, Ken Knisely, Milk Bottle Productions, Inc., Arlington Community Television, Arlington, VA

TALK SHOW-VOLUNTEER

> Sportsnuts, Paul Izzo, Sharon Community Television, Sharon, MA
Δ The Power Connection, Yolande Spears, West Hartford Community Television, West Hartford, CT

VIDEO ART-PROFESSIONAL

Δ Big Belly, Jim Sommers, Little City Foundation, Chicago, IL

VIDEO ART-VOLUNTEER

Δ Mad/Dog (I'm Falling Asleep), Sarah Smiley, Somerville Community Access TV, Somerville, MA



Δ - Single Program
> - Series

December 1 Deadline Set

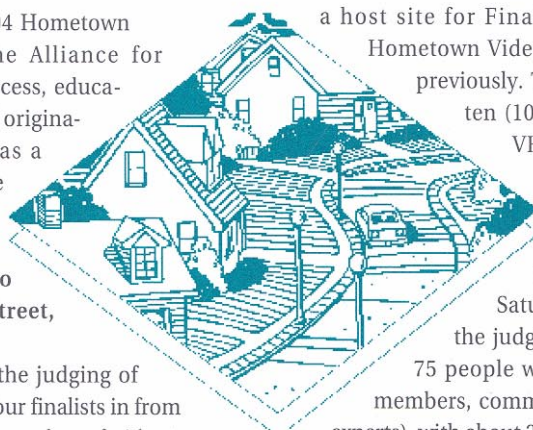
1994 Hometown Video Judging Sites Sought

Plans are now being made for the 1994 Hometown Video Festival, sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media. If your public access, educational access, government access, or local origination facility would like to participate as a Preliminary or Final Judging Site, please send a letter indicating your interest and describing your facility's capabilities to Randy VanDalsen, Hometown Video Festival, c/o The Buske Group, 2015 J Street, Suite 28, Sacramento, CA, 95814.

Each Preliminary Judging Site oversees the judging of about 60 - 70 entries. Each site determines four finalists in from one to four categories, depending on the number of videotapes entered in an assigned category. Five to seven judging panels will be required at each Preliminary Judging Site (again depending upon the number of videotapes entered in an assigned category), with each panel including three people: (1) an active community volunteer producer, (2) an access or local origination staff member, and (3) an expert in the category to be judged.

Preliminary Judging Sites must be able to view entries in either the VHS or 3/4" format. The preliminary judging activities must occur during the last half of April 1994. About 35 Preliminary Judging Sites will be selected.

The Alliance is also seeking letters of interest from facilities willing to host the Final Judging activities, where the award recipients are chosen in this annual event. Facilities which wish to be considered as



a host site for Final Judging should send a letter to the Hometown Video Festival Manager at the address listed previously. The Final Judging Site must have at least ten (10) viewing areas, to be set up for judging VHS or 3/4" entries, plus two other large areas to serve as a staging area and lunch/break room. These areas must be available for three consecutive days (Friday through Sunday or Saturday through Monday) to accommodate the judging of about 425 finalists. Approximately 75 people will be needed as judges (including staff members, community volunteer producers, and category experts), with about 20 of them coming in from outside the local metropolitan area. Final Judging will take place in mid-May 1994. Final Judging activities are overseen on-site by the Hometown Video Festival Manager. (NOTE: Priority consideration will be given to a facility from the Northeast Region of the Alliance, since 1983 was the last time that a site in this region hosted Final Judging.)

A nearly universal reaction of centers which have served as Hometown judging sites is that this activity generates great ideas for program topics and production techniques for their staff and community producers, and inspires them with a better perspective about local programming on cable systems throughout North America.

The deadline for letters of interest in participating as a preliminary or final judging site is December 1, 1993.

ANNUAL REPORT

International Committee

This year International celebrates the completion of its first two-year term as an official standing committee of the Alliance for Community Media. The International Committee is the Alliance's link to community-based media worldwide. It is a conduit for the flow of information. Information that speaks to us of the history and development of international community media, of concerns and efforts that are universal. It is important to remind ourselves, however, that these efforts originate from a variety of political, economic and cultural conditions. And that the use of non-commercial video has evolved a language which transcends international borders. This language recognizes the importance of diversity and the need to educate ourselves and each other to the issues surrounding our differences as well as our commonalities.

With this year, the International Committee begins again a new era. Status, mission and structure are now well in place. Goals and objectives have been identified, and regional representation exists. The construction of the International Committee as a integral and vital aspect of the Alliance is now complete. As an organization, we are now ready to use it. In addition, this new era is marked by new leadership – leadership that has evolved from the local level. Through commitment, dedication and great patience, the regions have demonstrated a wealth of resources and individuals who are eager to take International forward.

Among committee accomplishments of this past year are:

- > Newly established relations with Videazimut, an international coalition of nine organizations working for democracy in communication.
- > First-time relations established with community media groups in Eastern Europe.
- > Preparations begun for the Alliance's participation in the 1994 Second Annual International Video Olympics to be held in Scandinavia.
- > A proposed collaboration with the Cultural Olympiad Committee in conjunction with the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, as well as in 1993.
- > Support from PACT for the development of an International Directory.
- > Representation of the Alliance at the first symposium on access to media, "Fernsehen Der Dritten Art", in Vienna, Austria.
- > Representation of the Alliance at the "Contact 92" conference, sponsored by the Pan American Development Foundation for Central and South American non-governmental organizations, in Miami, Florida.

– Karen Helmerson, Chair

Committee Membership: Brian Girtman, Kari Peterson, Penelope Place, Fernando Moreno, Greg Vawter, LaMonte Ward and Paula Manley, chair.

ANNUAL REPORT

Information Services Committee

Summary of Activities

CTR. The CTR Editorial Board, headed by Chair Dirk Koning, continues its excellent work. Board members for the past year include: Bob Devine, Heidi Mau, Vel Wiley, Sabrina Zackery, Lynn Carrillo-Cruz, Paula Manley and Larry Beer. Increased pages are planned for future issues thanks to a generous donation from Central States Region. More aggressive CTR Editorial Board recruitment procedures, introduced last fall, have resulted in more diversity among board members.

Logo Development. Paula Manley, Kari Peterson and artist Mitch Tlustos worked with staff and the national board to develop and gain approval for an Alliance logo which will be officially unveiled at the Atlanta Convention.

Marketing Task Force. Penelope Place headed up the effort to develop final artwork for a variety of print materials to be included in a special kit which will be used to recruit affiliate Alliance members through access centers. The kits, which will also include a short video promo, will be available to Alliance organiza-

tional members at the Atlanta Convention. Members of the board's Information Services and Organizational Development Committees worked together to develop the kit contents.

Promoting BBS Use. Greg Vawter took the lead in encouraging increased use of the BBS (Bulletin Board System) by loading numerous Alliance documents onto the BBS, developing a brochure describing how to use the BBS, and making arrangements for BBS operator Greg Smith to attend the Atlanta Convention in order to provide opportunities for "hands on" learning.

Hometown Development Task Force. Lynn Carrillo Cruz and Deb Vinsel are co-chairing this task force charged with reviewing all aspects of the festival to assure alignment with the Alliance's mission.

Educational Packets. Kari Peterson and Sharon Ingraham are in the process of revising the Access Rules & Procedures packet. A Franchise Renewal packet, headed up by Lauren Glenn Davitian, is also in progress.

– Paula Manley, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT

Public Policy Committee

In 1992, the Alliance worked with a variety of coalition members – including People for the American Way, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Alliance for Communications Democracy, and cities and counties –

on Congressional laws, in FCC processes and in the courts to create an environment conducive to the continued growth and development of community media. The Alliance is confident that our 1992 work will be rewarded by 1993 decisions which confirm the American public's right to unfettered communication on cable TV systems.

Comments on Video Dialtone. On February 3, 1992, the Alliance joined the Alliance for Communications Democracy and 22 cities and counties to file a joint comment regarding video dialtone as defined in the FCC's First Report and Order, issued November 22, 1991. As designed by the FCC,

video dialtone would allow telephone companies to provide multiple channel (cable) TV services over telephone wires **without** local franchises or access requirements. The coalition responded that, to provide substantial public benefits, video dialtone would require the same type of regulation defined in the 1992 Cable Act for "television by wire." Central aspects included: access for non-commercial programming; universal service; and safeguards against monopolistic and anticompetitive actions.

On August 14, 1992, the FCC issued its Final Order, which reaffirmed telephone company ability to provide "cable" without a franchise and recommended that Congress move ahead with Telco entry legislation. The Alliance maintains that this position serves very little in the public interest. The Alliance joined the Alliance for Communications Democracy in filing suit in federal court, challenging that the FCC misinterpreted federal law in its video dialtone ruling; the court has not ruled to date.

The 1992 Cable Act. Driven by pressures to make cable rates more affordable, the 1992 Cable Act was enacted October 5, 1992 as Congress overwhelmingly overrode President Bush's veto. Despite year-long work by the Alliance and many individual members, Congress failed to add language which would allow communities to stabilize PEG access funding similar to pre-1984 conditions. In addition, Congress added two damaging sections. The Fowler Amendment, Section 10(c), titled Children's Protection from Indecent Programming on Leased Access Channels, required FCC rules permitting cable operators to ban PEG access programming "which contains obscene material, sexually explicit conduct, or material soliciting or promoting unlawful conduct." A conforming amendment modified Section 638 of the Cable Act, burdening the operator with liability for PEG programming that "involves obscene material." The Alliance interpreted these sections, if implemented, as having a chilling effect on access channels by allowing content-based censorship of PEG and leased access channels.

FCC Rulemaking Processes on Leased and PEG Access and the Alliance Coalition Argument. The Alliance (along with the Alliance for

Communications Democracy, the ACLU, and People for the American Way) filed comments with the FCC regarding the leased and PEG access rulemaking process required by the Cable Act. The coalition's comments, which were virtually identical for leased and PEG, were prepared by the Washington DC law firm Shea & Gardner, argued that the proposed regulations violated the First Amendment rights of both access channel users and cable viewers, and that the FCC should promulgate more narrowly-drawn regulations to minimize constitutional difficulties.

The coalition maintained that the only constitutionally permissible purpose of the regulations was to prevent children from viewing material that their parents consider inappropriate. An outright ban goes much further than necessary in this regard, by preventing adults as well as children from viewing the allegedly inappropriate programming. Instead, the Alliance proposed the use of lockboxes, which provide the least-restrictive – and therefore the only constitutionally acceptable – means of achieving the regulation's goal.

The coalition further maintained that the proposed regulations burdened only society's less powerful interests who use access channels to express their viewpoints, while leaving cable operators free to provide indecent, sexually explicit, or politically controversial programming on their own channels. The regulations were hopelessly vague and overbroad in describing what material a cable operator may forbid. And, the cable operators' censorship powers enabled them to engage in prior restraints of access users' speech. In its comments, the Alliance pointed out these deficiencies to the FCC, and also noted that lockboxes present none of these problems.

Time Warner (TWE) Suit: Alliance for Communications Democracy leads the defense of access. TWE filed a complaint challenging almost every significant provision of the 1992 Cable Act amendments and the PEG and leased access provisions of the 1984 Cable Act. At the time it filed its complaint, TWE also asked (1) to have the complaint heard by a three-judge panel with direct appeal to the Supreme Court; and (2) for a court order enjoining the federal government from implementing or enforcing any of the provisions of the Cable Act TWE was challenging while that challenge was being heard by the courts. Similar complaints, and similar relief was requested by others, notably the owners of the Discovery Channel, Discovery Communications, Inc. The case is being heard together.

TWE and the other plaintiffs lost on both counts. A three-judge panel decided that all of the plaintiffs' claims – other than claims directly challenging the must-carry provisions of the 1992 Cable Act – should be heard by a single federal district judge. Even more critically, that single district judge concluded that the plaintiffs were not entitled to any preliminary relief. The three-judge panel upheld must carry; the cable industry is appealing to the Supreme Court. The single judge heard arguments in early March on the issues relating

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ANNUAL REPORT

Organizational Development Committee

The Organizational Development Committee hopes this report on its 1992-93 activities reflects our ongoing commitment to increasing and diversifying our membership, developing leadership and fine tuning our organizational structure in order to meet our numerous constituencies' needs and interests.

The Committee was led this year by second-year chairperson Julie Omelchuck. Other Committee members included Pam Brown, Paul Congo, Sharon Mooney, Rika Welsh and Rob Wilson.

Membership Development. Membership underwent three major changes this past year: a change in the billing cycle for organizational members' dues, an adjustment in the amount of dues for all members, and the addition of membership categories for staff members and volunteers affiliated with an

Alliance organizational member.

Over 1992-93, all organizational members were transitioned to have the same annual dues cycle with an anniversary date of September 1. This change will increase opportunities to communicate with member organizations about dues and other issues; create a more efficient billing cycle allowing staff more time to devote to member services and recruitment; and help stabilize the national office's cash flow throughout the year.

The delegates to the 1992 Annual Meeting approved new membership dues and two new categories. The dues adjustments ranged from no increase up to \$100 for organizational members and from no increase to up to \$20 for individual members. Dues had not been increased since 1989. The delegates believed dues adjustments were necessary to improve the financial health of the Alliance and therefore enhance its ability to serve and represent members.

The addition of two new membership categories for people affiliated with Alliance organizational members represents a shift in the Alliance's long-term outreach strategy to channel membership efforts through access centers and other organizations. The delegates believed for most people, their involvement in PEG access and their Alliance affiliation began with and is focused around access centers and similar organizations. It is through these organizations that most individuals – access staff, community producers, grassroots volunteers – are able to actively participate in access issues and activities.

Therefore, the major focus of the Organizational Development Committee's work this year was to develop a marketing plan which provides organizational members the information, tools, motivation and incentive to recruit their staff and volunteers to become affiliate Alliance members. As a result, an affiliate member recruitment kit for use by organizational members will be premiered at the 1993 National Convention in Atlanta. Organizational members will be able to pick up their kit and discuss the recruitment

campaign at a membership booth during the Convention. Following the Convention, recruitment kits will be mailed to those who have not yet received one.

Other Committee membership activities included reviewing the packets of information sent to new and renewing members and developing a strategy to improve membership renewal rates.

Leadership Development. Leadership in the Alliance continues to develop in many different ways. We currently have nine certified chapters. We also welcomed two new provisional chapters – Dayton Access VIP chaired by Clarence Hogan, and Eastern Iowa, chaired by John Hess – bringing the number of those working toward certification to six. In addition, Kathleen Greenwood, Hudson, Wisconsin, volunteered to chair a Chapter subcommittee to help improve communications between the Organizational Development Committee and chapters.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a relatively new component of our organization. These groups are organized by members who share a common interest and desire to establish a network to communicate within and outside the Alliance. One new SIG showed interest this year and will hold its initial meeting during the Convention – Urban Access Managers, coordinated by Joyce Miller, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Sam Behrend, Tucson, Arizona. In addition, the Alliance has five ratified SIGs: Educational Access, Government Access, Seniors, Trainers and Small Access Centers.

In the upcoming year, the Organizational Development Committee will build on its accomplishments. In addition, we hope to strengthen our contribution to the Alliance by providing more support to chapters, regions and SIGs and by actively engaging in membership campaigns which diversify and increase our greatest organizational resource: our members.

–Julie S. Omelchuck, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT

Alliance for Communications Democracy

CTR presents the Alliance for Communications Democracy's annual report to show the value and success of this sister organization to the Alliance. The ACD has voting members constituting executive directors of larger community television operations. They contract with legal staff to protect access from challenges to the constitutionality of public access cable television. Not only was it a busy year last year, but huge challenges confront us all in years ahead.

Over the last year, access faced extraordinary challenges in the courts and before the Federal Communications Commission. As a result, the Alliance for Communications Democracy (ACD) was more active than ever before. While the organization has taken significant steps to protect access, its job is not nearly done. In fact, during the second half of 1993 and in 1994, a number of critical challenges to access are likely to come to a head.

Access Challenges, 1992-93. During the last twelve months, the ACD participated in the following proceedings:

1. **Challenges to efforts to allow operators to censor access.** The Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 (CPCA), passed last fall, contains a provision designed to force cable operators to censor indecent programming on PEG access and leased access, and to allow operators to ban PEG access programming the operator believe promotes or solicits unlawful conduct. The FCC was ordered to adopt rules to implement the new law. The ACD participated in the FCC's indecency rulemaking, arguing that any rule that permitted operators to ban constitutionally protected speech was unconstitutional. The FCC, as expected, adopted rules that allow operators to censor protected speech, and to refuse to provide access unless the operator is properly indemnified against any harms arising from the use of the channels. Thus, as adopted, the rules significantly intrude on the public's right to speak and potentially impose significant financial and legal burdens on cities and access centers. The ACD, along with a coalition of other groups, challenged the rules before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The appeal has been briefed, and will be argued in September.

2. **Challenges to the constitutionality of federal cable law by the cable industry.** Immediately after passage of the CPCA, Time Warner, Turner Broadcasting and other representatives of the cable industry filed broad challenges to almost all significant provisions of that law and the PEG and leased access provisions of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as originally passed. The industry claimed cable systems are like newspapers, and that regulations that could not be imposed on newspapers cannot be constitutionally imposed on cable systems. This basic challenge proceeded on two tracks before the federal district court for the District of Columbia:

a. **Must Carry Challenges.** The industry argued that provisions of the CPCA that require operators to devote a certain percentage of their capacity to carrying local broadcast stations (the so-called "must carry" provisions) are unconstitutional. The CPCA required a three-judge district court panel to hear that challenge. The ACD participated in this proceeding because part of the challenge to must carry was predicated on the same theory (cable is like a newspaper) that formed the basis for challenges to the PEG access provisions of the Cable Act. In fact, the industry went to great lengths to argue that PEG access

and must carry requirements are indistinguishable. The district court ruled that must carry requirements are constitutional, based on an analysis that is very helpful from the point of view of access supporters. The decision has now been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. *Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission*, 113 S.Ct. 1806 (1993).

b. **Other Challenges.** Other challenges to the CPCA and the Cable Act were heard by a single judge. The issues were briefed and argued at the same time the must carry issues were briefed and argued. The ACD participated in the briefing and oral argument before the court, arguing that the industry's challenges were not supported by the facts or by the law. The case is still awaiting decision; whatever the decision, it is certain to be appealed. *Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission*, No. 92-2494 (U.S.D.C.D.C. filed October 1992).

3. **Challenges to local authority.** In 1992-1993, franchising authorities and access centers continued to face court challenges in which operators argued that communities had no authority to regulate cable television, much less impose and enforce access requirements.

a. The Alliance filed briefs in *Preferred Communications v. City of Los Angeles*. No. 91-55625 (9th Circuit argued June 8, 1993). The case is on appeal from a decision of a federal district court upholding the authority of cities to regulate cable television, but finding that the particular access requirements established by the City of Los Angeles were unconstitutional, because Los Angeles had not shown it needed the number of channels it required operators to provide. The decision of the Ninth Circuit in the case is likely to contain a significant analysis of the relative rights of the public and cable operators.

b. *Telesat Cablevision, Inc. v. City of Riviera Beach*, 773 F.Supp. 383 (U.S.D.C.S.D. Fla. 1991) appeal pending, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Telesat district court issued a strong opinion supporting the right of local governments to regulate cable and establish and enforce access requirements. Telesat appealed the decision to the 11th Circuit, and the ACD filed a brief before that court, urging it to uphold the district court's decision.

4. **Cases involving access and new technologies.** In 1991, the FCC conducted a rulemaking to establish procedures designed to encourage local telephone companies to offer "video dialtone" services. The FCC ultimately adopted rules that permit telephone companies to enter into special contractual arrangements with cable companies and programmers to provide services identical to those now provided over cable systems, but free from any franchise obligations – including PEG access obligations. Last year, the ACD (and others) filed an appeal of the FCC's decision, arguing among other things that it is arbitrary and capricious to allow local telephone companies to establish a system for providing multi-channel video services to the home without ensuring that members of the public can both receive and distribute information via that system. *See, e.g. National Cable Television Association v. Federal Communications Commission*, No. 91-1649 (D.C. Circuit filed 1991).

Looking to the future. The ACD and access are likely to face even more critical challenges in 1993-1994:

The FCC's Indecency Rules will be argued before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in September. The appeals court is likely to rule on the constitutionality of the indecency rules before the end of the year; the decision will likely be appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Must-Carry Decision has been appealed to the Supreme Court; that court is very likely to require parties to file briefs and argue the case before it during the next term, which begins in October. Meanwhile, the industry has filed additional challenges to the must carry rules in other courts, seeking a more favorable decision.

A decision in the Preferred case will likely be issued within the next six months. That decision is also likely to trigger appeals to the Supreme Court.

The challenge to the FCC's video dialtone decision will be briefed to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit this fall. The case may be argued before that Court next spring.

The telephone industry is challenging the constitutionality of provisions of the Cable Act that prevent a local exchange carrier from owning a cable system in its service area. That case is awaiting decision in the federal district court for the Eastern District of Virginia. *The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company v. Federal Communications Commission*, No. 92-1751, (E.D. Va. filed December 17, 1992). The telephone industry has not challenged the constitutionality of franchising or of access requirements as part of the lawsuit, but access advocates will need to watch that case closely to ensure that it does not result in unregulated telephone company entry into the cable business.

The FCC has issued rate regulations that will allow operators to increase subscriber rates in the future to pass through any increases in PEG costs that exceed the rate of inflation. In addition, the FCC rules allow operators to itemize access (and other franchise-related costs) on subscriber bills.

How the Grassroots Worked. Because of the number and nature of the challenges to access in 1992-1993, the ACD, led by its Board of Directors, became more involved than ever in basic, grassroots organizing. For example:

- During the video dialtone rulemakings, ACD members collected hundreds of letters from organizations urging the FCC to preserve access. These letters were sent to the FCC and to Congressional delegations.

- As part of their efforts in the Time Warner litigation, ACD members collected documents showing that Time Warner and other members of the cable industry recognize that access provides important benefits to the community and promote the First Amendment. These documents were then cited on brief and in oral argument by the United States Justice Department as part of its efforts to show that access requirements are a limited, reasonable and content-neutral way to promote important values.

- Members of the ACD submitted documents to the FCC showing that, if operators are given the power to censor access, they will abuse that power. The documents included letters from operators to access centers in which operators demanded that they be

allowed to pre-screen any program shown on access channels. These documents are now being used to support appeals challenging the FCC's censorship rules.

- In the Preferred case, ACD members described in detail the type of programming carried on access channels in an effort to show the Court that access requirements actually increase the amount of speech and debate in a community and hence promote the First Amendment.

The ACD worked constantly with the Alliance for Community Media to ensure that members of the access community were fully informed about the nature and scope of the challenges to access. This grassroots work, essential to protecting access interests, will continue throughout the next year.

PUBLIC POLICY

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to the constitutionality of PEG access provisions of the 1984 and 1992 Cable Acts; the Alliances await his decision.

The Alliance for Communications Democracy provided the primary defense of access through an amicus brief, oral arguments, and work with the Justice Department on its presentation to the court. The Alliance for Community Media supported the ACD position challenging TWE's claim that cable is like a newspaper and that PEG access violates its First Amendment rights. While the final decision has not been issued, the Court's original decision and the precedent upholding must carry is favorable to PEG access because cable industry's claims link cable access to must carry.

Epilogue: 1993 Decisions. On February 3, the FCC issued leased access rules, and on April 2 issued PEG access rules which substantially exceeded the narrow process recommended by the Alliance. Major flaws in the PEG rules included:

1. The FCC did not consider public access channels a public forum, in spite of court opinions to the contrary.
2. Cable operators would be able to censor constitutionally protected speech.
3. Cable operators could require indemnification from access users for costs in defending an alleged obscene program that is certified as "not obscene", regardless of outcome.

Alliance Joins Coalition Suit Against FCC Leased and PEG Access Rules. On February 22, the Alliance joined the American Civil Liberties Union, People for the American Way, the Colorado-based '90s

Channel and the Alliance for Communications Democracy in filing suits at the Federal Court of Appeals to challenge the constitutionality of the February 3 FCC regulations requiring operators to censor "indecent" leased access programming. The Alliance maintains that the rules violated the First Amendment rights of producers and viewers by establishing a system of prior restraints on constitutionally-protected speech. The coalitions late filed a similar suit challenging the PEG access rules.

Court of Appeals Blocks Leased and PEG Access Censorship Rules, and Joins the Cases for September Review. On April 7, 1993, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued an order granting requests for stay of the FCC's leased access rules. On May 7, 1993, the Court stayed the PEG rules and joined the cases for a mid-September hearing; in the interim, there will be no PEG or leased access censorship rules.

Alliance Members Rising to the Challenge. Alliance members responded to challenges by raising over \$12,000 for public policy initiatives. The Alliance's coalition work has saved substantial amounts of funds, primarily due to the superb pro bono work provided by Shea & Gardner on each phase of the FCC rulemaking process. Still, the Alliance needs funds to respond to challenges funded some of the wealthiest corporations in the nation. The Alliance encourages each organizational member to allocate one percent of its operations budget for public policy initiatives.

— Alan Bushong, Chair



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Alliance will soon be seeking proposals from potential contractors to research, update and publish a 1994 edition of the 1987 Cable Programming Resource Director under a grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please submit your name and address to the national office in writing immediately so that you can be placed on the mailing list to receive the RFP which is scheduled to be distributed in October. Thank you.

Alliance for Community Media
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OR PROHIBITING THE FREE
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*Article 1 – Articles in Amendment of the
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Austin Community Television

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Austin Community Television is developing a new management team of Directors to help recreate its vision of community access to television and communications media. The Directors will work directly with the Executive Director to coordinate the community access program. These positions will be available following the award of ACTV's annual access management contract, expected October 1.

Applicants must possess the ability to communicate well (written and verbal); build and manage an effective team; analyze service issues and propose creative solutions; collaborate with other managers; interact positively with diverse and multi-cultural staff and client base.

Media Arts Director

Leader of 10 member staff team providing client and viewer services including:

- media literacy and media arts training
- planning and scheduling of production resources
- exhibition and programming services
- coordination of producer and volunteer efforts
- promotions and publications

Candidates should have demonstrated experience in production, promotion and exhibition of media arts programming; training and education; customer service. A degree in Communications, Media Studies or similar is required with graduate experience preferred.

Salary negotiable from \$26,000

Technical Support Director

Leader of 8 member staff team providing technical services, including:

- computer and data systems support
- video systems engineering and quality control
- video equipment maintenance and inventory control
- processing and routing of completed programming

Candidates should possess strong technical backgrounds with emphasis on video and data systems. Experience in management of technical systems is a must. College degree in relevant field required, with Broadcast Engineering degree preferred.

Salary negotiable from \$25,000

Administration Director

Leader of 5 member staff team providing overall administrative support including:

- fiscal services (bookkeeping, payroll, etc.)
- personnel support (record keeping, benefits, etc.)
- building supervision and security
- clerical support

Candidate should have demonstrated experience in personnel and administrative management. A college degree is required; degree in management or administration preferred.

Salary negotiable from \$24,000

Equal Opportunity Employer. Send cover letter and resume by October 31 to:

ACTV, PO Box 1076, Austin, TX 78767.

CTR

Back Issues Available

A number of back issues of CTR remain available in varying quantities. For availability and ordering, contact the national office at 202/393-2650, or write the Alliance at 666 11th St. NW, Suite 806, Washington, DC 20001-4542.

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and participation in court cases
involving franchise enforcement
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about access television. 9



An Invitation to Join the

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Become an Alliance Subscriber for \$350/year and receive detailed reports on current court cases threatening access, pertinent historical case citations, and other Alliance activities.

- Voting membership open to non-profit access operations for an annual contribution of \$3,000.

- Non-voting memberships available to organizations and individuals at the following levels:

- Alliance Associate, \$2500 - copies of all briefs and reports.
- Alliance Supporter, \$500 - copies of all reports and enclosures.
- Alliance Subscriber, \$350 - copies of all reports.

Direct membership inquiries to Richard Turner, Ōlelo: the Corporation for Community Television, 960 Māpunapuna, 2nd floor, Honolulu, HI, 96819, or phone (808) 834-0007 ext.1714.

Voting Members: Chicago Access Corporation, Illinois • Montgomery Community Television, Inc., Maryland • Columbus Community Cable Access, Inc., Ohio • Staten Island Television, New York • Boston Community Access & Programming Foundation, Inc., Massachusetts • GRTV, Grand Rapids, Michigan • Tuscon Community Cable Corporation, Arizona • Ōlelo: The Corporation for Community TV, Hawaii • Multnomah Community TV, Oregon • Manhattan Neighborhood Network, New York.

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